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A

MEMORIAL RECORD

OF THE

NEW-YORK BRANCH

OF THE

United States Christian Commission.

COMPILED

UNDER THE DIRECTION

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

NEW-YORK:
JOHN A. GRAY & GREEN, PRINTERS, Nos. 16 AND 18 JACOB STREET.
1866.

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TO

NATHAN BISHOP, LL.D.,

CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

New-York Branch of the Christian Commission,

TO WHOSE

WISE, PRACTICAL AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION

OF ITS AFFAIRS,

THE SUCCESS AND USEFULNESS OF THIS BRANCH OF THE COMMISSION ARE, UNDER GOD, SO LARGELY DUE,

THIS

MEMORIAL RECORD

IS

MOST AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED

BY

HIS ASSOCIATES

OF THE COMMITTEE.

The following brief Record has been prepared at the request and under the direction of the Executive Committee of the New-York Branch of the Christian Commission.

It has not been the object of the compiler to give a history of this Branch of the Commission, but to collect and group together some of the more important facts and features of the work.

While the war was waging, and the Commission was in full operation, nearly every one throughout the entire community became familiar with it. But at a period of such wonderful activities and rapid progress, when men live almost exclusively in the present and the future, the past, however full of incident and instruction, quickly fades from the public mind, and is buried in oblivion.

As the Christian Commission, in its origin and operation, is something unique and without a parallel; and, as it impressively illustrates the power and comprehensive spirit of the Gospel of the Saviour, it ought not to be forgotten, but should be held in perpetual and grateful remembrance.

It affords one of the most powerful and conclusive arguments in favor of the divine nature, and of the humanizing, alleviating, comforting, and saving influences of Christianity which history records.

To keep alive, therefore, with the present generation, the name and doings of this Mission of Mercy, and to hand the same to those who shall come after, is the chief purpose of this Memorial Volume.

New-York, January, 1866.

THE

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Its Origin.

On the sixteenth day of November, 1861, there was assembled in one of the rooms of the American Bible Society in the city of New-York, a Convention of Delegates from various Young Men's Christian Associations throughout the country. These representatives had come together under circumstances of peculiar interest. A great civil war was waging. Thousands of the young men of the land were already in camp, and thousands more hastening to join their comrades on the tented field. Every city, town, and hamlet sounded with the notes of war. Never was a great people more thoroughly aroused and more intensely engaged in preparing for the mighty conflict. All classes and conditions of society were alike moved by a common impulse. The country's call was heard through the land, and from every part there was a prompt and hearty response. Every profession and calling contributed its bravest and its best. From the schools of theology, from the halls of literature and science, from the counting-house, the work-shop, and the farm—in fine, from every walk of life—there came forth a mighty host, the pride and flower of every family and every circle, ready to peril their fortunes and their lives, that they

might rescue the country from the impending danger. It was truly a sublime spectacle! But it was an occasion of the deepest solemnity. A nation's existence was at stake, and fearful sacrifices must be made.

These multitudes were leaving their homes, the circles in which they had lived and moved, the hallowed associations of youth and early manhood, and were rushing into untried scenes of danger and trial. Many would meet an early death; many would be thrown into hospitals, to suffer and linger through wearisome weeks and months; many would forget their early religious instructions and fall before the power of evil; and all would be tempted and tried as never before. This new and strange state of things appealed, and not in vain, to the deeper feelings and sympathies of our common nature. Something must be done. These men must be cared for. It was impossible for the Government, in the circumstances, to do more than provide for the common necessities of those in its service. The number of chaplains was very limited. They were necessarily restricted in their labors, and could not possibly minister to these multitudes gathering from all parts of the land. Nor was it in the power of the Government at once to meet the wants of the increasing thousands of the sick and wounded. After doing all that any government could do, there was still a great lack. To supply this, some other agency or agencies must be employed.

The first to respond to this demand were the Young Men's Christian Associations. They formed their Army Committees, and were promptly at work doing what they could. Prominent in these early movements was Colonel Vincent Colyer, of the city of New-York. He relinquished for a time a lucrative profession, and devoted himself to the troops passing through the city, and also visited the seat of war, and labored there.

The following extracts from a report of Colonel Colyer, made to the New-York and Brooklyn Young Men's Christian Associations, and to other parties, are particularly interesting, as throwing light upon the origin of the Christian Commission:

"Our work commenced with the arrival of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment of Volunteers in New-York, on their way to defend the Capital, April 18, 1861, the day before the attempted massacre in Baltimore. Next day we visited the Seventh Regiment, National Guard; and so on for three months we continued to visit, hold meetings for prayer, singing, and exhortation, distributing tracts, Testaments, hymn-books, to the regiments in and about, or passing through New-York City, up to the twenty-second of July, the day of the news of the battle of Bull Run.

"Many a camp in the vicinity of New-York—at Elm Park, East New-York, Bergen Point, Staten Island, Disbrow's, and the Park Barracks—were found places full of joy and rich with the presence of the Saviour, by the Army Committee of the New-York Young Men's Christian Association, during those three first months of the commencement of this war for the maintenance of our nationality.

"Immediately on the receipt of the news of the battle of Bull Run, in company with Mr. Frank W. Ballard I left for that new field of duty. I continued at Washington, assisted, for over three weeks, by Rev. Franklin S. Rising, P. Harwood Vernon, Dr. Winchell, and Noble Heath, Jr., and afterward alone for six months, as Agent of the New-York Young Men's Christian Association. I visited the hospitals at Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria, and the regimental hospitals in the camps, and held constant daily intercourse with the chaplains at my office and in their camps, and was received with favor almost everywhere.

"The Government afforded me every encouragement, giving me at first a free pass on the railroads, and afterward privilege to visit every portion of the army of the United States, and if the enemy would permit it, even to go THROUGH our lines, and visit our sick and wounded in the rebel hospitals and prisons, the following order being my authority:

"'HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
WASHINGTON, Aug. 30, 1861.

"'Mr. Vincent Colyer, of the Army Committee of the New-York Young Men's Christian Association, in the prosecution of his benevolent labors in the camps and hospitals, will be permitted to pass through the United States lines at all times, and is commended to the courtesy of the troops.

"'By command. WINFIELD SCOTT.

"'H. VAN RENSSELAER, Colonel's Aid-de-Camp.'

"I soon realized 'the harvest truly was great, but the laborers few,' and wrote the following letter:

"'WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., Oct. 1, 1861.

"'DEAR SIR: Having been occupied for these last ten weeks in the army, at Washington, as representative of the New-York Association, the necessity for a much more extended organization, in order to meet, even approximately, the Christian wants of the soldier, has so impressed itself upon me, that I can not avoid writing to you for aid. I wish to ask the Committee of which you are the honored Secretary, to earnestly consider the propriety of calling a general convention, at some central place, at the earliest practicable day, to consider the spiritual wants of the young men of our army, in order that the same may be provided for by the appointing of a 'Christian Commission,' whose duty it shall be to take entire charge of this work.

"'The Government has now over two hundred and fifty thousand men enlisted, the far greater majority of whom are young men, and not a few of them members of our Association. These young men are risking their lives for their country, exposed to constant hardships, and subjected to all the temptations and debasing influences of camp life. They are liable to sickness and prolonged suffering from wounds, in hospital, and to sudden death upon the battle-field. To meet the great wants of these young men, under circumstances which so urgently call upon our Christian sympathies and gratitude, (for they are assembled in defense of our homes,

our rights, and our Government,) no adequate exertion has yet been made. . . .

"'It will be seen, then, that I do not ask you try an experiment, but to continue and enlarge a work which is already practically under way and successfully working, but which has now grown so large, that we can not do better than resign it into hands capable of giving it the dimensions it deserves, and I trust will receive from you. I need not urge the necessity of prompt as well as decisive action; for it must be apparent to every one, that whatever is done effectively in this army work must be done *quickly*. At any moment here a terrible battle may take place, and all along our lines, (in the West particularly,) engagements are daily occurring; besides, the troops are continually in motion, and the habits of the men are forming daily, either for good or evil.

"'The work is so extensive and needs such large resources, that single associations can do but little; and for them to act independently of each other, is to increase vastly the expenses, while the labor accomplished will be less; and while some sections will receive too much attention, others will be comparatively neglected. . . .

"'I therefore leave the matter in your hands, and pray that a convention of all the Young Men's Christian Associations of the loyal States may be called at an early day.

"'With Christian esteem, fraternally yours,

"'VINCENT COLYER,

"'Chairman Committee on Correspondence with Convention New-York Y. M. C. A.'

"'*To* JAMES GRANT, ESQ., *Secretary of the Committee for calling a Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States, Philadelphia, Pa:*

"'Having been continuously at this centre, with abundant opportunities of observation, and feeling strongly impressed with the necessity of united and energetic action in this great work, I heartily concur in the proposition presented by Brother Colyer, with the view of securing such concerted action.

"'M. H. MILLER,

"'President Washington City Young Men's Christian Association.'"

The letter of Colonel Colyer, of which extracts are given above, directed attention to the necessity of some more comprehensive organization, and, together with the action of the Young Men's Christian Association, led to the formation of the Christian Commission, one of the grandest and noblest agencies for ministering to the temporal and spiritual wants of the soldier and sailor the world has ever known. All honor to the Christian young men who, by their prayers and efforts, inaugurated this heaven-born Mission of Mercy!

At the Convention above named, the subject which claimed and received special attention, was the temporal relief and spiritual good of the officers and men composing the army and navy of the United States. After much discussion and deliberation, it was resolved to organize an agency, to be styled "the United States Christian Commission."

Such, briefly, was the origin of an association whose wonderful career of usefulness confers honor upon the country which gave it birth, commands the respect and reverence of every thoughtful mind, and illustrates the power of a living Gospel. In all the world, through all its history, there is no parallel to it. It stands alone. There let it stand, and to the generations to come let it testify to the comprehensive and practical Christianity of this land and of this people.

The following persons were appointed members of the Commission: George H. Stuart, Esq., Philadelphia; the Rev. Rollin H. Neale, D.D., Boston; Charles Demond, Esq., Boston; John P. Crozer, Esq., Philadelphia; Bishop E. S. Janes, New-York; the Rev. M. L. R. P. Thompson, D.D., Cincinnati; Hon. B. F. Manierre, New-York; Colonel Clinton B. Fisk, St. Louis; the Rev. Benjamin C. Cutler, D.D., Brooklyn; John V. Farwell, Esq.,

Chicago; Mitchell H. Miller, Esq., Washington; John D. Hill, M.D., Buffalo.

At an early day the Commission met in the city of Washington, and organized by appointing George H. Stuart, Esq., Chairman; Hon. B. F. Manierre, Treasurer; Rev. A. M. Morrison, Secretary; and George H. Stuart, Bishop Janes, Dr. Cutler, Charles Demond, and B. F. Manierre an Executive Committee.

A plan of operations was adopted, and the work of the Commission was commenced. From the origin of the Commission to its close, it had the warm approbation of the General Government, and received every possible facility for carrying on its operations. At first the Commission was located in the city of New-York. During the year the Hon. B. F. Manierre and the Rev. Dr. Cutler resigned, and their places were filled by the appointment of Jay Cooke, Esq., Philadelphia, and the Rev. James Eells, D.D., of Brooklyn. Mr. Cooke and Mr. Crozer were added to the Executive Committee. Joseph Patterson, Esq., of Philadelphia, was appointed Treasurer. The Rev. Mr. Morrison, after having served gratuitously and effectively as Secretary for several months, resigned, and the Rev. W. E. Boardman was elected to fill his place. Before the end of the year the Commission was removed to the city of Philadelphia, where it remained till the close of its work.

It is no part of the plan of this work to give a history of the general Commission, but only a brief record of the New-York Branch. It seemed proper, however, to give this statement of the organization and permanent location of the Parent Association.

THE NEW-YORK BRANCH

OF THE

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

EARLY in the history of the General Commission, it was discovered that a large part of its work would have to be reached by means of the Government ships leaving the port of New-York. In no other way could it carry on its operations on the South-Atlantic coast, along the Gulf, and upon the Lower Mississippi. To meet this necessity, it was deemed advisable to create a separate organization, to be located in the city of New-York, which would be auxiliary to the parent Commission, in sympathy and co-operation, but to which a distinct field of labor would be assigned, and also a limited field from which to draw supplies. Accordingly, on the eighth day of December, 1862, the New-York Branch of the Christian Commission was formed by the appointment of the following gentlemen as a General Board of Management :

Chairman.

WILLIAM E. DODGE.

Vice-Chairman,

FREDERICK G. FOSTER.

Treasurer,

JAMES M. BROWN.

Secretary,

Rev. RUSSELL S. COOK.

GENERAL BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

JOHN T. JOHNSTON,
HENRY K. BULL,
DAVID HOADLEY,
JONATHAN STURGES,
NATHAN BISHOP, LL.D.,
OLIVER BRONSON, M.D.,
Rev. H. DYER, D.D.,
Rev. JOSEPH H. HOLDICH, D.D.,
SALEM H. WALES,
JAMES W. BEEKMAN,
STEPHEN CUTTER,
ARCHIBALD RUSSELL,
Rev. DAVID TERRY,
Hon. L. B WOODRUFF,
MORRIS K. JESSUP,
THOMAS C. DOREMUS,
JAMES C. HOLDEN,
D. WILLIS JAMES,
SMITH SHELDON,
D. G. ELLIOTT, M.D.,
S. B. CALDWELL,
WALTER S. GRIFFITH.

The General Board elected the following as the

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

NATHAN BISHOP,
F. G. FOSTER,
S. H. WALES,
MORRIS K. JESSUP,
ARCHIBALD RUSSELL,
H. DYER,
J. T. JOHNSTON,
JAMES M. BROWN.

For systematizing and facilitating the work of the Commission, the following Standing Committees were appointed:

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Finance.

JOHN T. JOHNSTON,
HENRY K. BULL,
JAMES M. BROWN,
DAVID HOADLEY,
JONATHAN STURGES.

On Publication.

OLIVER BRONSON,
H. DYER,
RUSSELL S. COOK,
JOSEPH H. HOLDICH.

On Delegates.

ARCHIBALD RUSSELL,
DAVID TERRY,
NATHAN BISHOP,
L. B. WOODRUFF,
SMITH SHELDON.

On Stores.

M. K JESSUP,
JAMES C. HOLDEN,
T. C. DOREMUS,
D. WILLIS JAMES.

On Public Meetings.

H. DYER,
M. K. JESSUP,
D. WILLIS JAMES,
F. G. FOSTER,
S. H. WALES,
JAMES C. HOLDEN,
STEPHEN CUTTER.

On Navy, Hospitals, and Forts.

SALEM H. WALES,
STEPHEN CUTTER,
JAMES W. BEEKMAN,
S. B. CALDWELL,
WALTER S. GRIFFITH.

Such substantially were the Committees as they were finally organized.

When the Long Island and Brooklyn auxiliary was established, Messrs. Caldwell and Griffith withdrew from the New-York Committee, where they had rendered most efficient services.

By an arrangement with the Central Commission, there was assigned to the New-York Branch the following field of operations:

1. The vessels of war fitted out in the harbor of New-York, with their transports and the squadrons receiving supplies, making nearly the whole naval force of the country.

2. The forts, camps, naval and military hospitals in New-York and its vicinity.

3. The armies and military and naval hospitals along the South-Atlantic coast, at the mouth of the Chesapeake, in the sounds of North-Carolina, the islands of South-Carolina and Georgia, the mainland and islands of Florida and Alabama, and within the military department of the Gulf of Mexico.

The aggregate number of sailors and soldiers embraced within these limits was estimated at about one fourth of the war forces of the country, of whom not far from one tenth were in hospitals. The field, as at last defined, from which this branch of the Commission was to obtain supplies of funds and stores, embraced the city of New-York, the towns on the Hudson below Albany, Eastern New-Jersey, and Connecticut. Such were the fields upon which the Commission was to operate.

The Executive Committee, upon whom was devolved the responsibility of carrying out the plans of the General Board, immediately took measures to call public attention to the necessities of the work which had been assigned to them. Men, money, and stores were in pressing demand. It was all-important that these claims should be laid before the churches of the city and neighborhood, without delay. Accordingly, a public meeting of the clergy was called. This meeting took place in Clinton Hall, on the

twenty-eighth of January, 1863. The Rev. William Adams, D.D., was called to the chair, and the Rev. John Cotton Smith, D.D., acted as Secretary. After a statement of the objects of the meeting by the Chairman and Secretary of the Commission, and by the Rev. Alexander Reed, of Pennsylvania, a returned delegate, a Committee was appointed, consisting of Rev. Drs. Williams, Hitchcock, Hutton, Holdich, Taylor, and Smith, to draw up resolutions embodying the sense of the meeting.

After a brief interval, the Rev. Dr. Williams, on behalf of the Committee, presented the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the aim and labors of the Christian Commission eminently commend themselves to the patriotism and Christianity of our country; and that engaged as the nation now is, in a fearful strife for the vindication and perpetuity of its own unity and life, the brave men of our army and navy, who have in this behalf 'taken their lives in their hands,' are, when beaten down by exhaustion, disease, or battle, or when about to peril themselves 'on the high places of the field,' the last class whom a Christian nation should leave anywhere, or in any degree to complain: 'No man careth for my soul.'

"*Resolved*, That while we gratefully recognize the provision made by the Government for chaplaincies, and its acknowledgment of the rights of the Christian Sabbath, and while we admire and sustain the extended and effective labors of the Sanitary Commission, all such action remains imperfect and ineffective, except as sustained and supplemented by the churches; that our country has in its past history been summoned by the providence of God, to prove before other people of the earth how a nation without standing armies might uphold order and security, and how churches without a state endowment might liberally maintain and widely diffuse religion; and that, in the new emergencies of this vast war, God calls us to the yet loftier task of proving before all gainsayers how an improvised army and an improvised navy may

effectually assert for a Republic its national rights and its energetic life; and how, too, in such a time, the voluntary and unsalaried exertions of Christian zeal can, under God's blessing, send through all the rifts and chasms opened by this conflict the influences of a warm, prompt, and loving charity.

"*Resolved*, That to give new power to our valiant champions, and to make them an effective moral police amid these national convulsions, they need and have full right to expect that they should be followed, as far as may be, to the camp, the deck, and hospital, by the influences, remembrances, and sympathies of the homes and the sanctuaries from which they have gone forth, and which some of them may never be permitted to revisit; and that thus to seek to render our soldiers and sailors yet more and more intelligent, resolute, conscientious, and devout, is a work demanded alike by gratitude, humanity, patriotism, and religion; and that champions so followed and sustained, are the more likely to return as law-abiding citizens and principled patriots, to the quiet pursuits of home, and the orderly administration of the Republic.

"*Resolved*, That heavy as are the drafts made on the resources and incomes of the people, it is by such sacrifices resolutely encountered that God has trained nations for enduring freedom; and that mere material prosperity, unchecked and untasked, has often ripened a people for irremediable ruin; that Infinite Wisdom, in the symbols of that inspired dream by which it analyzed prophetically to the Chaldean king, the causes of the ruin of the world's old empires, showed a head of gold toppling to inevitable overthrow, because supported on feet of incongruous and unassimilated iron and clay, a lesson remaining true for all after times; and that a Christian Republic must educate, humanize, and evangelize its population into moral sympathy and brotherhood, as the indispensable precedent condition for the retention of its life and powers; that wealth finds its sweetest uses and its surest safeguards in such beneficent activity, and knowledge its happiest honors in such diffusion of its treasures, and faith and love so busied find in Providence unexpected resources and an invincible ally; but that to hope to build up a Christian state in this nineteenth Christian century, by steadying the power of the few on the ignorance, oppression, venality, and

corruption of the many, is to hope that the head of gold may, on our Western shores, find in the mingled but discordant iron and clay, a steadfastness which God has always and everywhere denied to such an experiment; and that its success here could be hoped only by its proving itself able to erase principles that God has deeply and repeatedly graven upon the history of the nations, and only by its outwitting and outworking the retributions of a Providence that has never yet been seen to slumber.

"*Resolved*, That we urge, therefore, most heartily upon all our churches, that their prayers and alms and efforts be given without stint to the work so wisely and effectually commenced by the Christian Commission."

Arrangements were made for a general meeting of the citizens, which took place on the ninth of February. The following account of this meeting will be read with interest:

"The Great Public Meeting of the Commission in the Academy of Music. Lieutenant-General Scott in the Chair. Major-General Burnside present.

"One of the most impressive public meetings in behalf of a Christian cause, was held on Sabbath evening, February ninth, in the Academy of Music. That spacious edifice was crowded to its utmost capacity, and thousands could not gain admittance. It was estimated that a thousand persons stood the entire evening in the aisles and lobbies of the building. On the spacious platform were grouped scores of the clergy, military officers, eminent jurists, merchants, and public men. On the right and left of the Chair sat ex-Governor Morgan of New-York, General Anderson, Judges Allen and Woodruff of the Supreme Court, and other distinguished citizens.

"Mr. William E. Dodge reminded the audience that it was a Christian occasion that had assembled them on the Lord's day, and suggested that any demonstrations of respect for the venerable presiding officer of the evening, or others, should be made by the silent rising of the assembly. When the majestic form of General

Scott appeared, the vast congregation arose in solemn stillness—an unprecedented act of blended respect for a great chieftain and of reverence for the King of kings. The simple spectacle was sublime. There was a similar demonstration when General Burnside entered.

"General Scott silently bowed his acknowledgments for this expression of Christian respect, and, on assuming the chair, said:

"'Fellow-Citizens: The honor done me on this occasion, in calling me to occupy this chair upon an occasion of so much importance and worth, gladdens the heart of an old soldier, and fills him with gratitude and love. New-York has sent out her thousands upon thousands of brave sons, to fight the battles of our Constitution and Union, and has not forgot them in the field or upon their return home. Her care has been incessant. She has given them every aid, has cared for their families, and watched over the wounded, sick, lame, and halt upon their return. The objects of this Association will be explained to you by my colleague in the duties of the Chair, more fully than I shall attempt upon the occasion. With such a cause, that God will prosper our efforts and give us triumph, no Christian man can doubt.'

"After prayer by Rev. Dr. Van Norman, addresses were made by Rev. Dr. Tyng, Rev. Alexander Reed, Colonel McKean, M.C., Rev. Mr. Ganse, Major-General Burnside, U.S.A., Rev. Mr. Duryea, and George H. Stuart, Esq., and the meeting closed by the benediction, pronounced by Rev. Dr. Shedd.

"The addresses were varied, impressive, eloquent, and powerful. Enthusiasm rose to the end; the whole city and country felt the force of the meeting, and its benefits will extend to all parts of the army, the navy, and nation.

"One of the many great and good results already realized is the voluntary, unsolicited contribution of about ten thousand dollars to the treasury of the Committee, which is the earnest of many thousands more.

"Encouraged by this vigorous and noble beginning in New-York, the Commission, confident of liberal and efficient aid both in men and means, from this newly-opened and ample metropolitan

source of supply, feel warranted in entering upon enlarged systematic plans for extending thoroughly and equally throughout all the forces of the Union, the grand benefits of a personal agency, together with the sacred Scriptures, religious publications, and such stores as may be needed."

The proceedings of these meetings were published in the religious and most of the secular papers, and awakened a deep and widespread interest. The clergy brought the matter before their congregations, and very soon money and stores began to come in. In the mean time the sub-committees were actively engaged in systematizing the work of their several departments. The Executive Committee for a long period held daily sessions. The subjects coming before them were so numerous and important, and withal so pressing, that the promptest as well as the most careful action was necessary. The members of the Committee gave themselves to the one work of making the Commission as effective for good as possible.

After the Commission was well organized, and in good working condition, the Rev. Mr. Cook, who had gratuitously and most effectively served as Secretary for some five months, felt compelled to resign his position, and resume his labors in connection with the Sabbath Committee of New-York. This Committee had most generously allowed Mr. Cook to withdraw for a time from their service that his great executive abilities might be employed in organizing the Christian Commission. Upon retiring, he addressed the following letter to the Chairman:

"New-York, April 27, 1863.

"William E. Dodge, Esq., *Chairman of the New-York Committee of the United States Christian Commission:*

"My Dear Sir: The exigencies of the Sabbath Committee's enterprise demand my undivided time, and render necessary the resignation of my office in your Committee.

"I have had occasion to investigate thoroughly the principles and practical workings of the Christian Commission, and my first impressions of the wisdom and efficiency of this scheme for evangelizing the army and navy are intelligently confirmed. Had I two lives, I should deem it a privilege and an honor to give a part of one of them to what I believe to be Christ's 'Commission.' I have but one, and that is consecrated to the Lord's Day.

"With affectionate Christian salutations to our co-laborers, I am, my dear sir, with fraternal respect and esteem, yours,

"R. S. Cook."

The Committee expressed their high appreciation of Mr. Cook's services, by the unanimous adoption of the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That this Committee hereby tender to the Rev. R. S. Cook their most cordial thanks for the interest which he has manifested in the success of the work of the Commission since its organization; and also for the valuable gratuitous services which he has rendered in its behalf.

"They would also express the desire that Mr. Cook will still continue to act with the Committee in the discharge of its duties."

About the same time Mr. Frederick G. Foster retired from his position as Vice-Chairman of the General Committee, whereupon the following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the Committee hereby tender their warmest thanks to Mr. Foster, for the interest which he has manifested in the affairs of the Commission since its organization, and they regret that other duties have caused him to resign his position as Vice-Chairman."

Upon the resignation of Mr. Foster, Nathan Bishop, LL.D., was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Executive Committee. Dr. Bishop immediately took the general oversight of the work of the Commission, in all its branches, and gave his whole time to

the service of the Committee. As the retirement of Mr. Cook left the Committee without a Secretary, Dr. Bishop conducted the large correspondence of the office, and attended personally to every department of the work.

To his good judgment, wise management, and unceasing care, the Commission owed in a large degree its great efficiency and usefulness. These disinterested and long-continued services were, as will be seen, duly appreciated and acknowledged by the Committee.

That the friends of the Commission may the better understand how its work was accomplished, it may be well here to give somewhat in detail the mode of operation. Three things particularly claimed attention. Funds and stores were to be obtained. Reading matter was to be provided. And delegates were to be secured.

How Money and Stores were Obtained.

As the operations of the Committee involved large expenditures, it was necessary to make proper provision to meet them.

From the commencement the finances were carefully managed. The Committee resolved to incur no responsibilities which could not be promptly met. To this rule they steadily adhered. While their work was eminently one of faith and love, they did not deem it right even in such a work to incur obligations which could not be discharged. This policy inspired public confidence, and contributed not a little to the prosperity and efficiency of the Commission.

The usual mode of awakening and continuing an interest in its behalf was by spreading information before the people through the religious and secular press, by public meetings, by special appeals, and by enlisting the clergy to bring the subject before their

congregations. This latter mode was particularly satisfactory, and productive of large results. The Committee studiously avoided all doubtful means of raising funds. They never gave any countenance to the system of lotteries and raffling so much in vogue. Nor did they lend themselves to any sensational or clap-trap appeals. They felt a deep conviction that this mission was one of mercy, and that they could look to God for his blessing. Whenever the want should come, and of whatever kind it might be, they were assured that so soon as it should be known there would be a proper response. In this they were not disappointed.

God stirred the hearts of his people not only to give their money freely, but also to labor patiently and perseveringly in preparing clothing and other articles of comfort, as well as delicacies of every kind for the sick and wounded. At no time was the treasury ever overdrawn. When sudden demands came, involving heavy expenditures, there came also supplies equal to the necessity. This was on many occasions most strikingly illustrated. During one season in particular there was a great deal of sickness among the troops throughout the South. The remedy for this sickness was a preparation of blackberry. There were demands for large quantities. But how could they be obtained? The call came in the season of the blackberry in the Northern climate. Thousands gave themselves at once to the preparation of this article. One notable case deserves to be placed on record. A benevolent gentleman in Connecticut, having charge of one of the large establishments for condensing milk, had notices circulated that he would prepare and forward, without charge to the Commission, all the blackberries the people would pick and send to him. Within a short time, more than eighty bushels were sent to his establishment. These were prepared without delay, and forwarded to the rooms of the Commission in New-York,

and from thence sent to different points where troops were stationed in the South. By this means an incalculable service was rendered to our suffering men.

On one occasion, it was proposed to hold a public meeting in the Academy of Music, not so much for the purpose of calling attention to any particular claims which were specially urgent, but to submit statements with regard to the general operations of the Commission. The speakers were engaged, and the arrangements were all completed. But when the evening came the whole country was in a blaze of excitement. The memorable campaign of the spring of 1864 had opened, and the fearful "battles of the Wilderness" were in progress. The Academy was thronged by a vast multitude, eager to hear and ready to do. The speakers appealed in behalf of the thousands of bleeding, suffering, dying men. The memories of Antietam, of Fredericksburgh, of Chancellorsville, and of Gettysburgh were recalled. It was a scene never to be forgotten. A collection was taken up amounting to twenty-six thousand dollars—the largest plate collection probably ever taken in this country. It was soon increased to thirty-five thousand dollars.

Then, again, during the last campaign, while the final struggle was going on, there was an urgent call for a large amount of means. There was no time for a public meeting. On Friday, a brief appeal was drawn up. On Saturday, it was sent to the clergy of the city, with the request that, if practicable, it be read in their churches the next day. This was done by many of the clergy, and the result was remarkable. Two or three cases are worthy of special notice. At one of the churches, it was the occasion of their annual missionary collection; the clergyman was at a loss to know what to do. He read the appeal—he paused—but finally determined to take up a collection at once for this object. This

was done before the sermon; after the sermon the regular collection was taken. The former amounted to over one thousand dollars, and the other was fully equal to what it ever had been. At another church the appeal was read, and an impromptu collection was taken, amounting to twenty-five hundred dollars. The clergyman at another church read the appeal, and asked his people to send in to him what they could. The response was nearly two thousand dollars. These cases show how promptly, and with what liberality, the people gave when there was a need for it. While it is not possible to speak in detail of the contributions received by the Committee, it is proper to state that, in addition to what was done at home, the American missionaries in China, Siam, and Constantinople, and American citizens in various parts of the world, made liberal offerings, and expressed the deepest sympathy in behalf of their suffering country.

Thus it was God supplied the means for carrying on this blessed work.

In the matter of awakening an interest, and of raising funds, the Committee were greatly indebted to the Rev. George J. Mingins. His frequent visits to the army as a delegate, his deep interest in the cause, as well as his peculiar gifts as a public speaker, eminently fitted him for this work. For two years he was in the service of the Committee, during which time he visited and spent several months on the Pacific coast, laboring on behalf of the General Commission. His operations in that region extended from San Francisco in California, to Portland in Oregon, and also to Nevada. In nearly every place of any importance he was enabled to hold meetings, and address the people in behalf of the work of the Commission. The results of his labors in that distant field were very great. While engaged within the particular district assigned to the New-York Branch, Mr. Mingins was in the habit of preach-

ing in the churches, and holding public meetings as opportunities offered. He was everywhere received with the utmost kindness, and afforded every facility for accomplishing his work. God blessed his labors most abundantly, and the Committee desire to have placed on record their high appreciation of the services he was enabled to render.

The amount of funds received by the Treasurer of the New-York Branch was $307,649.38. The value of the stores received was estimated at $33,904.16. Making a total of about $341,653.54.

Reading Matter.

At an early day, the importance of providing and distributing suitable reading matter engaged the attention of the Committee. When the first appeal was made, a large number of old books, pamphlets, magazines, and newspapers were sent in. These were assorted and distributed. But it was soon discovered that to meet this demand, and supply proper reading for the men in the service would require a great deal of time and intelligent labor. The Committee could not allow these thousands of their fellow-citizens to be put off with an occasional and irregular supply; much less could they consent to their having only the fragments of old libraries, cast-off periodicals, or the floating and corrupting trash of the day. Accordingly, they addressed themselves seriously to this work, and, within a few months, every thing was reduced to an easy and regular working system. The ships, leaving the Navy-Yard in Brooklyn, the hospitals, the forts, the camps, and the troops in the field, were regularly and abundantly supplied with a well-assorted religious and general literature. Wherever it was practicable, as in the forts and hospitals and on the ships, good libraries were provided. Religious newspapers were purchased in

large quantities, and distributed regularly, not only in the hospitals, forts, and camps, but among the men in active service. Some idea of the magnitude of this work may be had, when it is stated that the number of periodicals sent out from the New-York office alone, amounted, not unfrequently, to from one hundred and sixty thousand to two hundred thousand copies per month. On an average, some two hundred and forty ships were supplied monthly with reading matter. Beside all the books, magazines, and papers sent in gratuitously, the Committee expended, in this branch of their service, thirty-one thousand five hundred dollars. No part of their work, perhaps, conferred upon the soldiers and sailors more pleasure and benefit, or was more fruitful of good results every way, than this provision for their reading.

The Committee were most fortunate in having as the Chairman of the Committee on Publications, Dr. Oliver Bronson, of New-York. Though in feeble and failing health, he devoted all his time and strength to this work. Besides carefully selecting from the issues of the different societies, and of the various publishing houses in the city, he had several small books and tracts prepared, with special application to the men in service. Every thing in this department came under his personal supervision and care. In view of his efficient services, the General Board unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Commission are justly due, and they are hereby presented to Oliver Bronson, M.D., for his unwearied zeal and attention as Chairman of the Committee on Publications; for the time, patience, and labor expended, and the judgment exhibited by him in the selection of the various publications, and the care exercised by him in their distribution.

This resolution but expressed the true sentiments of every member of the Board.

In this connection, it is proper to state, that from the American Bible Society, the Committee received, without charge, a full supply of Bibles and Testaments, so that the Commission became a most efficient agency for the distribution of the Word of God. They also received from the Evangelical Knowledge Society grants of Prayer-Books equal to their demands. From other societies, grants were made, from time to time, of their publications.

Delegates.

To select, commission, and send forth persons to act as delegates, was a most important and delicate duty. These persons would represent, on the one hand, the Commission and the Christian and patriotic sentiment of the people; and, on the other, they would have to accommodate themselves to the rules of the military and naval service, commend themselves and their work to the officers in charge, and minister acceptably to the physical, mental, and religious wants of the men.

It would devolve upon a delegate to go wherever his services might be needed, to take charge of whatever stores might be sent to him, to be ready at all times to aid the surgeons, to coöperate with the chaplains, to visit the hospitals, and not unfrequently to act as a common nurse; to dispense delicacies to those who needed them, to distribute proper reading matter, to receive and transmit to distant friends messages of business or affection, to hold religious services, to converse and pray with the sick and dying, and to bury the dead. In a word, to carry to the soldier and the sailor, in all the circumstances of his temptation, danger, trial, and suffering, the ministrations of sympathy and love, the influences of home, and the blessings and hopes of the Gospel of his Saviour. It would be his mission to go forth, in the spirit of his Divine Master, and

do, without fee or reward, what he could for the bodies and souls of his fellow-men. Such was the work proposed. Could it be done? Were the men to be had? Would they volunteer their services? These were the questions to be solved. After duly weighing the whole matter, the Committee made their appeal. They sent it through the country. At once, there was a full-hearted response. Every mail brought the names of those who were willing to enter the service. Clergymen, with the consent and approbation of their congregations, placed themselves at the disposal of the Committee. Physicians, lawyers, merchants, mechanics, and students did the same. Very soon, the difficulty was, not to obtain delegates, but to make a proper selection from among those who offered their services. It should have been stated that, as a rule, no compensation was paid for the services of delegates—a moderate sum was allowed to meet their actual expenses. As the field of operations was for the most part in the distant South, it became necessary to accept only such delegates as could give from six to twelve months to the work. The length of service, and the peculiar exposures of a Southern climate, presented many difficulties which had to be met. There were those who could easily arrange to be absent from their homes for a few weeks, but comparatively few who could give the time which this distant and protracted labor required. And yet, with the favor of God, these obstacles were overcome. Faithful and devoted men were found ready to undertake this self-sacrificing, and, in many respects, most difficult work. It is not too much to say, and it is but just to say it, that in no part of the country were the objects of the Commission more effectively and satisfactorily accomplished, than in these distant fields.

It will interest the reader to know more in detail the plan by which the delegates carried out the purposes of the Committee.

This will be shown by presenting the operations of the service under the general head of

Departments of Labor.

For the sake of greater efficiency, the general field was divided into distinct departments—each department bearing a particular name. Over each department, a suitable person was appointed, to act as agent. All the delegates for a given department were under the supervision of this agent, whose duty it was to assign them their particular work, and furnish them with such supplies as they might need. All the forts, hospitals, troops, and shipping within the department were to be provided for. This agent was in constant communication with the office in New-York, receiving such supplies of stores and reading matter as his department might require, and rendering, monthly, an account of all the work under his care. By this arrangement, the Committee always knew what was wanted and where it was wanted. If a given department needed more delegates, or stores of a particular kind, the demand could be promptly met. For instance, after any of the heavy battles in Eastern Virginia, it was known that the hospitals at Norfolk and Portsmouth would be crowded. To the Agent at Norfolk stores of every needed kind were immediately sent, and sent in large quantities. He was authorized, also, to procure and supply bountifully the sick and wounded with the fresh fruits of that region.

So, also, when it was known that General Sherman would soon appear on the Atlantic coast with his legions of war-worn veterans, large supplies of clothing, and articles of comfort and convenience of every kind, were forwarded to the agents of the Commission, ready to be distributed among the troops upon their arrival.

The Departments of Labor may be numbered as follows:

1. The forts, camps, naval and military hospitals in New-York, and in the neighborhoods and towns from fifteen to twenty miles from the city. Of these, there were some twenty, embracing, on an average, from ten to fifteen thousand men.

2. The ships of war, with their transports leaving the Navy-Yard of Brooklyn. There were about five hundred and eighty ships and thirty-four thousand seamen. These constituted the larger part of the naval force of the United States.

3. The Department of Eastern Virginia, embracing Norfolk, Portsmouth, and the fleets coming to and departing from that port. The Rev. E. N. Crane was the Agent, and had his headquarters at Norfolk. The number of delegates varied from six to twelve. This department was administered with great system and economy.

4. The Department of North-Carolina, embracing all the territory within the Union lines south of Virginia. The headquarters were at Newbern. The following persons acted as agents. Rev. Jacob Best, Rev. John C. Taylor, Rev. A. S. Lovell, and the Rev. Washington Rodman. The number of delegates varied from ten to eighteen. The labors of this department were most difficult and arduous. After the fall of Wilmington, and the approach of General Sherman's army, all the hospitals were crowded with the sick and wounded, and the delegates were taxed to the utmost of their abilities.

5. The Department of the South, embracing all the territory within the Union lines in South-Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Headquarters at Hilton Head. The agents were Rev. W. H. Taylor, Rev. Joseph Henson, and Rev. Dwight Spencer. Number of delegates varied from ten to fifteen. The affairs of this department were conducted in a most satisfactory manner.

6. The Department of the Gulf, including all points within the Union lines, from Key West, on the east, to the Rio Grande, on the west; the Lower Mississippi, as far north as Port Hudson, and also the Red River region, as far as the Union forces held possession.

The headquarters were at New-Orleans. For a few months, the Rev. J. F. Sutton acted as agent. He was succeeded by Dr. J. V. C. Smith, whose medical knowledge and eminent administrative abilities, peculiarly fitted him for this most responsible position. For two years and a half he conducted the affairs of his department, not only to the entire satisfaction of the Committee, but to the great comfort and benefit of the soldiers and sailors who came within the limits of his field. He was most ably seconded by a corps of twenty or more delegates, some of whom continued in the service for two years or more.

In this connection, it should be stated, that while persons from all professions and callings offered their services, and rendered most essential aid, by far the larger number were clergymen. The Committee soon discovered that, as a rule, clergymen were more acceptable to the men, and consequently more efficient than any others. The soldiers and sailors, whatever might be their habits, were more disposed to listen to the instructions of the clergy; and in sickness and sorrow, they were deeply grateful for their ministrations. This feeling, which everywhere manifested itself, was a most striking and gratifying testimony to the position and influences of the Christian ministry.

Many of the clergy gave from six to twelve months, and some from a year and a half to two years. It has been the invariable testimony of all thus engaged, that no portion of their ministry has been so profitable to themselves, or so useful to their fellow-men, as the time spent in the service of the Commission.

Illustrations of the Work Performed.

The following extracts, taken almost at random from the correspondence of the delegates, show the nature and importance of the work accomplished.

It has already been stated that the field of operations was, for convenience and efficiency, divided into distinct departments, and that over each department an agent was placed, under whose supervision the work was carried on.

The following report from the Agent of Eastern Virginia, gives a fair idea of the systematic and thorough manner in which every thing was done:

"Branch Office, 9 Granby Street,
"Norfolk, March 8, 1865.

"*Secretary United States Christian Commission:*

"Dear Sir: According to instructions, I present the following report of the Christian Commission's work in the District of Eastern Virginia for the months of January and February, 1865, with a passing reference to previous months.

"This district comprises the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth, and the defenses, consisting of a regular line of earthworks, around them; the outposts and picket-stations, located at intervals out to and at Suffolk, and up the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal to Currituck; and, on the eastern shore of Virginia, the Portsmouth Navy-Yard, and vessels constantly entering, lying at, and leaving the port; the two army hospitals and the naval hospital in Portsmouth, and the army hospital and two prisons in Norfolk; Fortress Monroe and the adjacent camps and hospitals, and the vessels lying in Hampton Roads; Newport News, where there is a colored recruiting camp; Yorktown, Gloucester Point, and Williamsburgh. Within this circuit we have probably reached, with our supplies and labors, during the past two months, over twenty thousand soldiers and sailors, not including those engaged in the Wilmington expedition, with which we sent a delegation of five clergymen, whose labors in the fleet occupied re-

spectively from two to six weeks, closing toward the end of January.

"Eight clerical and two lay delegates have labored under my direction during the time over which this report extends, namely:

"Rev. R. B. G———, who reported for duty in this district December ninth, 1863, being located most of the time at the army lines near Portsmouth, until December twelfth, 1864, when he left for Roanoke Island in the Newbern District, with the object of establishing a Christian Commission station there. He left for home early in February, 1865.

"Rev. L. S———, who had been laboring in this district very efficiently *last summer*, reported here for duty a second time, October sixth, 1864, and was engaged in the Portsmouth Hospital until November second, when he went to New-York to arrange matters in reference to the Wilmington fleet delegation. Being taken ill, he did not return until November twenty-seventh. He was then engaged in preparing for the expedition. The fleet, with our delegation on board, sailed for Fort Fisher December fourteenth. Mr. S——— returned to Norfolk in the hospital-ship Fort Jackson December twenty-ninth, and, receiving a letter informing him of the dangerous illness of his daughter, started immediately for home. He returned the latter part of January, and resumed the position of temporary chaplain on board the United States steamer Colorado, (upon which he had entered early in December.) A few days after, he sailed on this vessel to New-York.

"Rev. E. P. W——— reported for duty at this office November sixteenth, 1864, and was engaged in hospital labor until the middle of December, when he entered the Wilmington fleet delegation as temporary chaplain on board the United States steamer New Ironsides, in which he went down to Fort Fisher, and was present at the first bombardment. He was very cordially received by the ship's company, had commenced to labor in social meetings for prayer and Bible instruction among the men, and had distributed several packages of reading matter, and some sanitary stores, when, after a fortnight's labor, he was disabled by sickness, and returned to Norfolk December thirtieth. He was quite ill and unable to do much active duty for a week or ten days. He, however, rendered me valuable assist-

ance in the office until the middle of January, after which time he was very actively and efficiently employed in hospital visitation, and in holding services at various points at Norfolk and Portsmouth until February twentieth, when he closed his labors and left for home. He was, from the first, a most faithful and useful delegate.

"Rev. C. H. B——— reported for duty at this office November twenty-third, 1864, and was engaged in the Portsmouth hospitals, in camp, and on vessels at the navy-yard until December twelfth, when he entered the Wilmington fleet delegation as temporary chaplain on board the United States steamer Powhatan, which position he occupied until the close of his term of service, holding regular Sabbath services and social meetings for prayer and religious conference among the men almost daily, and distributing reading matter and stores to the extent we were able to supply them. During the last fortnight, he was engaged most of the time in assisting the Rev. W. L. T———, Agent at the Christian Commission quarters at Fortress Monroe. He closed his labors February fourteenth. No delegate in this district has been more zealous and effective, and the labors of none have been more signally blessed. He bore all his expenses, and upon leaving, handed a donation of ten dollars to Mr. H———, to purchase delicacies for several patients in the naval hospital. I am happy to learn that he thinks of entering again upon the work of the Commission, and hope he may return to this district.

"Rev. H. D. B———, formerly Chaplain of the One Hundred and Sixty-seventh New-York volunteers, reported for duty at this office December seventeenth, 1864, and was engaged in labors at the Portsmouth hospitals until January second, 1865, when he went down to join the fleet delegation then lying off Beaufort, N. C., to take the place of the Rev. E. P. W——— as temporary chaplain on the New Ironsides, and labor in the fleet generally, as he might find opportunity. He was thus engaged until January fourteenth, when he returned to Norfolk, and has since been working miscellaneously at the Portsmouth and Norfolk hospitals, prison-camps, and on board vessels, holding occasional religious services, and distributing reading matter and stores, but mainly occupied in teaching colored soldiers in two wards of Balfour Hospital, where his labors have probably been the most useful. He purposes to return North soon to take a pastoral charge.

"Rev. B. B——— reported for duty at this office December twentieth, 1864, and was actively and steadily at work in the Balfour Hospital until January second, when he took the hospital steamer Fort Jackson, in company with Mr. B———, for the Wilmington fleet, to fill the place of temporary chaplain on board the United States steamer Colorado, during Mr. S———'s absence at the North. He remained on board until January tenth, laboring acceptably among the sailors, holding occasional prayer-meetings, and distributing reading matter. He then rejoined the Fort Jackson, and was present at the second bombardment and the capture of Fort Fisher. He returned to Norfolk on the same vessel in care of the wounded, in which work his efficiency and devotion enlisted the warmest commendation and thanks of the surgeon and other officers. He arrived here January eighteenth, and has since been regularly employed at the navy-yard, visiting and distributing reading matter, and holding religious services on board the vessels. He has secured a sub-repository for supplies in one of the navy-yard buildings and is carrying on the work with vigor and success. When joined by Mr. B———, as I hope he soon may be, they will be able to occupy the field thoroughly, and, I trust, with blessed results.

"Rev. C. D. W——— reported for duty at this office November twenty-third, 1864, and spent a few days in laboring in the Portsmouth hospitals. On November twenty-eighth, he took Mr. G———'s place at Fort Hazlett, on the army lines near Portsmouth, to labor in the detachments of troops holding this line of defenses, and the cavalry picket-posts toward and at Suffolk, numbering in all from twenty-five hundred to three thousand men, for which work Government placed a horse at his disposal. The Rev. P. S. E——— having been recently appointed Chaplain of the Thirteenth New-York Heavy Artillery, which is the main force holding this line, and Mr. W——— having been appointed Chaplain of the Third New-York Cavalry—the main force manning the picket-posts—the necessity of a delegate at this point has ceased for the present, though the frequent military changes may cause it to arise again.

"Rev. W. R——— reported for duty January twenty-ninth, 1865, and has, during the month of February, been constantly engaged in hospital visitation, and the distribution of reading matter and stores,

and preaching in the hospitals and on vessels at the navy-yard, and on two Sabbaths in St. Paul's Church, Norfolk. His courteous manners, sterling ability, and discretion tell effectively in our work here, elevating its tone and causing it to be more highly appreciated. Supplies to a considerable amount in value have been sent us through his influence.

"Mr. W. P——— reported at this office for duty as a lay delegate November twenty-seventh, 1864. The project of Mr. S———, who recommended his appointment, was, that he should join the Wilmington fleet delegation, especially to take charge of the supplies, and aid in their distribution; but the original plan of locating all the delegates on board the hospital-ship, to work from that base among the vessels of the fleet, having been changed, and the clerical delegates posted as temporary chaplains on separate vessels, there seemed to be no proper position in the fleet to which Mr. P——— could be assigned. He was, therefore, engaged in assisting Mr. T———, Agent at Fortress Monroe, in forwarding supplies to and from our Norfolk office, in which he rendered very useful and timely service, and was one of our most faithful and indefatigable delegates. He left for home January thirtieth, closing his term of service in connection with this office.

"Mr. W. H——— reported at this office for duty as a lay delegate September first, 1864, and has to the present time been employed as my office-assistant, and engaged, whenever he could be spared from office duties, in hospital visitation. Although not sufficiently educated to attend to accounts or correspondence, (in which I often feel the need of help,) he is, in other respects, a faithful and efficient worker. He is especially adapted to hospital visitation, having a peculiar tact in winning the good-will of the patients, and admirable discrimination and discretion in furnishing them just the supplies they need, as well as in religious conversation and general spiritual ministrations. I would here repeat the suggestion, made in a recent letter, that, as soon as some suitable person can be engaged to assist me in the office, Mr. H——— be relieved from this duty, in order that he may devote himself to hospital work. His labors in that department of our field would, I doubt not, be abundantly blessed.

"My own labors, from the time I was commissioned as Agent for

this district, September fifteenth, 1863, have consisted in a general superintendence of Christian Commission operations in this region. For the first eight months, I was located at the United States Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Va., performing the duties of chaplain, as well as those of Christian Commission Agent, attending to hospital visitation, conducting a daily evening service in the hospital at five o'clock. I also, for three months, performed chaplain's duty in Balfour Army Hospital, Portsmouth, spending two or three mornings weekly in visitation, and conducting three or four services on the Sabbath; also sustaining a morning and evening Sabbath service and a social service on Thursday evenings, in the Christian Commission Chapel, Portsmouth. I also officiated at the funerals in both hospitals. The Rev. M. E. W——— and Mr. H. B. A——— were my only assistants until June, 1864, excepting the Rev. Mr. G———, whose services, however, were confined strictly to the army lines near Portsmouth. As our work increased, and larger invoices of supplies were sent to this district, the necessity arose for larger office accommodation than the Naval Hospital could furnish, and we removed to our present location, No. 9 Granby street, Norfolk, where we occupy a house assigned us by the military authorities, thus far rent free. We have, besides, received all necessary Government facilities for carrying on our work. Our office has become an established and well-known institution of the city, and our band of laborers increased from one to ten. I am now constantly occupied in office duties, receiving and issuing supplies, conducting correspondence with the New-York office, with delegates, chaplains, and others, keeping the office accounts, and visiting, as I have time and opportunity, various points at which delegates are laboring, and conducting two or three Sabbath services in the Norfolk prisons and hospital.

"The above I have given as a cursory glance at our work from the beginning of my agency in this district, introductory to a regular series of monthly reports.

"I subjoin a statistical report of our work in this district for the months of January and February, except that of the Wilmington fleet delegation and of Rev. Mr. Walker of the army lines near Portsmouth, of which no statistics have been furnished me:

	January.	February.
Religious services, (mostly on Sabbath,)	20	37
Hospitals visited and supplied,	13	13
Prisons " " "	3	3
Regiments, detachment visited,	43	66
Vessels "	14	65
Boxes and packages sent from office,	189	267
Weekly and monthly religious papers distributed,	27,406	32,563
Books and Tracts "	4,924	12,044
Bibles and Testaments "	740	433

"Decided religious interest has been apparent in the car-house ward of Balfour Hospital, (a large building at some distance from the other hospital buildings,) and on board the United States steamers Powhatan and New Ironsides, and there is good evidence of several conversions, especially on the Powhatan, under the labors of Mr. B———. Our work in the navy is greatly increasing in extent and interest, and in its appreciation among the officers and men. We have, within the last month, held frequent Sabbath services on vessels lying at the navy-yard, and applications are frequently made at our office for supplies of reading matter for vessels arriving at or leaving port. This being one of the principal naval stations of the country, the importance of our *navy* work here, which is especially committed to the New-York Branch of the Christian Commission, can scarcely be over-estimated; and amidst all the changes that may take place, our *army* work will probably not diminish, but rather increase, for a year to come, even though the end of the war may be near at hand, on account of the military as well as the naval importance of this point.

"Our sanitary supplies have been distributed by the delegates with good judgment, and special care has been taken to see that they *did* reach those for whom they were intended. They have brought comfort and relief to many suffering ones, and the work of the Christian Commission in ministering to both body and soul has been most gratefully appreciated and acknowledged.

"Respectfully submitted. E. N. Crane,

"Agent U. S. Christian Commission for Eastern Virginia."

A delegate from Eastern Virginia writes:

"Portsmouth, Va.

"I beg to make a brief report of my work in Portsmouth under the direction of your efficient Agent at Norfolk. I devoted myself to the hospitals in Portsmouth, especially the Seaboard Hospital and the Baptist Church Hospital, distributing a large amount of reading matter, talking with the men, and giving out sanitary stores, such as fresh vegetables, wines, crutches, fans, handkerchiefs, etc. On the first Sunday I preached in two prisons, the colored hospital, and the Union Church; on the second Sunday, in three hospitals. The attention was very serious indeed, and we all enjoyed the occasion. All meet the agents of the Christian Commission with the heartiest welcome, and the men are remarkably open to religious influence. My labor has been the most pleasant I ever enjoyed. I would call your attention to the earnest need of one or two permanent delegates in Portsmouth, where there are about two thousand sick and wounded. There is a great want of Bibles, Testaments, hymn-books, and of sanitary stores, which last are indispensable to the spiritual work in the hospitals.

"The second day after I left New-York, I found myself busy among soldiers on the steamer, talking and reasoning with them on points of morality and on the subject of being prepared to die. Afterward, on the way up the James River, an Episcopal brother and myself performed public service among the soldiers, and after the service distributed books and tracts, all apparently with acceptance and profit. At the front, near Point of Rocks, work was demanding attention. In the hospital there—an old farm-house—some of our suffering boys received from us, thankfully, this one an orange, that one a lemon, another a good tract, and another a word of exhortation. While there, some sixty to seventy-five wounded soldiers came by from another part of the field in ambulances. We made and gave them a pailful of lemonade, and a pretty good supply of oranges, thus cheering many a soldier's heart.

"Continued service not being needed at that time on the front, on the next day I had a very attentive audience of about thirty soldiers, the captain of the steamer and some of his men being also present.

"On my way from Fort Monroe to Baltimore, I found myself in company with upward of three hundred, among whom it was not convenient to have any public service; but learning that they were nearly all very scarce of funds, and many of them, for a day or more, had been without a supply of food, and not knowing of any way to procure a supply, I was happy in directing them to a saloon where a meal is given by the generous proprietors and patrons of it to the defenders of our country as they pass by. In Philadelphia, on my way home, I found it for edification, in a weekly prayer and conference meeting, to speak in behalf of our suffering soldiers. Other instances of the same kind might be mentioned, since my return and before. My preaching from cot to cot of course was an every-day service, and I don't feel prepared to speak of the number of times I was thus employed.

"Services of this kind are sometimes very highly esteemed, not only by the soldier addressed and prayed for, but by those in his immediate vicinity.

"At the request of the chaplain, I acted in his stead one evening, and called on a soldier very ill. Soon after I spoke to him, he asked me to pray for him. I inquired into his state of mind. Every thing appeared to be right, except that he did not feel prepared to say that he was a Christian. I explained to him that if he was intelligently and sincerely looking to Christ for salvation, he was a Christian. I inquired if he recollected any instance in the New Testament where our Lord disappointed any who came to Him sincerely asking a favor for themselves or friends. He answered, No. I declared to him that Christ was the same now as then; and that if he were sincere in his application, he ought not to doubt his acceptance. And I asked him if he felt sure in reference to his own sincerity. He promptly and with apparent sorrow replied that he was sincere. I exhorted him to fear not. I then announced to those around, (I had not been among them before,) that their very feeble friend had wished me to pray for him, and made a few remarks and then prayed, with solemn attention all round. I called in a day or two afterward, to see the man I had prayed for. I was informed by those near his cot that he was dead! And said one of them: 'Sir, your visit and prayer the other night saved him!' I mention this to show the high, and, in

this case, the over-estimate given by our suffering boys to the services of faithful ministers."

The following extracts are taken from the correspondence of delegates laboring in different parts of the field:

A delegate writes from the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Va.:

"This is one of the largest naval hospitals in the United States. It has at present over three hundred wounded naval officers and men —the cured leaving, and others arriving continually. No chaplain was here to sympathize and pray with them, to point them to the Lamb of God, and smooth their dying pillow, and transmit their last remembrances to loved ones at home.

"Most of my labor is with individual sufferings and necessities of body and soul. My first inquiry was for the most fatal cases. Two of these I had barely time to warn of their danger and urge to repent, before their eyes closed in death. Others of special interest I will mention. J. C———, a young man whose parents reside in New-York, had an arm torn off by a shell which killed his brother and two others. These three lie buried here. He was a member of the Sunday-school of the Memorial Church, corner of Hammond street and Waverley Place. I found him deeply interested in the salvation of his soul, and in a few days was enabled to inform his pious parents that their poor wounded son was rejoicing in a hope in Christ.

"F. B——— is a man of family, from Brooklyn, over fifty years of age. Rapid consumption set in after an injury; has been given up by the surgeons. Though here but a few days, he has found his Saviour. I have witnessed repentance in many a sinner; but such brokenness of spirit, such love to Jesus, such trust in Him, would cause any Christian to weep for joy with him, as I have done.

. . . . "I have started two prayer-meetings daily, at six A.M. and six P.M. They are well attended by those who can leave their couches. Last evening there were about one hundred present. At the close more than a dozen rose and asked to be prayed for. I have appointed an inquiry-meeting at one P.M., daily. My service on the Sabbath is at half-past two P.M., the morning being wholly taken

up by the surgeons in the wards. This service is well attended by surgeons, officers, and men, and very solemn."

At a later period the same delegate writes:

"Our services in a church opened for us by General Viele, have been very gratifying. In the evening the house was so full that the doorway, porch, and windows outside were surrounded by those unable to procure seats. The audience was very attentive, and tarried after service to sing and greet each other."

A delegate writes from the Naval Hospital, Norfolk, Va.:

"The Spirit of God is here, of a truth. There have been several conversions within a few days. One, an old man of sixty-four, a remarkable instance of the power of the grace of God. He was the greatest reprobate in the whole ward, and almost defied God. Yesterday he found peace in believing. He has been in the service thirty years, has doubled the capes of both hemispheres twenty-one times. I sent, this morning, a letter to his pious wife in Philadelphia, announcing the glad tidings of his conversion.

"Our library succeeds admirably. The volumes were all taken, and many more would have been, could we have supplied them. We have them elegantly catalogued and numbered. It is carried through all the wards twice a week, and is very popular and useful. In fact, it promises more than any other instrumentality of the press we have employed. Many thanks and blessings have been expressed to the Commission for the generous and early response made to our application."

A delegate writes from Fort Jefferson, Tortugas, Fla., in reference to a box of books sent by the Commission:

"I had notified our men that a box of fresh religious books was coming, and as my stock of reading matter had nearly run out, and all eyes were eagerly looking for the vessel, it was not necessary for me, when she discharged her cargo, to look after my box. As soon as it appeared, with my name on, marked from the Christian Commission, some half-a-dozen of the men brought it to my quarters, say-

ing: 'Here, Chaplain, is the box of books; and if you do not consider it rude, we should like some right off.' I promptly complied with their request, and since then have been busily engaged in distributing the contents of the box. Our soldiers in this department are becoming great readers, and it gives me great pleasure to see how the different companies emulate each other. Our books, papers, and tracts are also received by the prisoners—of whom we have one hundred and forty—with great thankfulness."

A delegate, after visiting various places on the Lower Mississippi, writes:

"We found upward of twenty-five hundred sick and wounded in the hospital at Baton Rouge. One man told me it did him more good to see us there on our errand of mercy, than it would to obtain his discharge. Another young man, for whom I had some corn-starch and other delicacies, prepared from the Commission stores, said, almost weeping: 'O sir! this is the first thing I have seen since leaving Maine that looks like home.' He told me that his brother, in the same company to which he belongs, had left Baton Rouge for a New-Orleans hospital, sick; and as he had not heard from him, he feared he was dead. I went to New-Orleans soon after and looked him up. I found him dying. He expressed a hope that he had given his heart to Christ. I staid with him all night, and the next day cut off a lock of his hair, and took his dying message to his friends.

"At Port Hudson I spent several days in the front. On the morning of the engagement, I started for Springfield Landing for supplies. When I reached the telegraph station my horse gave out. While waiting for a wagon, Dr. R———, Medical Director of one of the divisions, asked me to take charge of this station, where I give to all the wounded, as they pass by, iced drink and refreshments. Some fifteen hundred have already been relieved in this way." [The letter was dated Lilly Station, and written in lead pencil, "after the rush of ambulance-wagons past the station was over."]

Some months later, another delegate writes:

"At Baton Rouge I attended a meeting in the Barracks Hospital.

The room was crowded. A large part of the audience consisted of pious soldiers, many of them recently converted. They spoke freely and prayed fervently. I made visits to the hospital wards, making distributions in all cases to officers and soldiers, hearing, everywhere, deep interest manifested in our work, and testimony to its great value, and observing a general disposition to afford us every assistance.

"The next Sabbath morning I preached at Port Hudson. Though the morning was showery, officers and men came out well. On Monday I attended a devotional meeting of the chaplains and instructors. They all united in a cordial testimony to the value of the Christian Commission to them; urging further aid, more frequent visits, and larger supplies, particularly of books and papers. These chaplains are faithful working men, preach regularly, hold social meetings, distribute reading, teach school. They spoke of the coöperation of their officers, and how eager they were to obtain reading matter.

"I landed at Donaldsonville on Sunday morning, at eight o'clock. Was cordially received by the Colonel. He assisted me in the distribution of books and papers, and sent his orderly to give notice for preaching, and at eleven o'clock drum beat church-call. He, with his staff, and a good number of the troops, attended. I was told that many of them had heard no preaching for years; some, probably, never. All listened respectfully, some with deep interest. How they crowded around my box! In a few minutes all the German, French, and Roman Catholic Testaments were gone, and not a tenth supplied; then a large quantity of English Testaments, and papers, tracts, leaflets, etc., indefinitely. They had never before been supplied or even visited."

The agent having for a time the charge of the Department of North Carolina, gives the following general account of the work:

"On arriving in North-Carolina as agent of the United States Christian Commission, I found the work of the Commission carried on at four principal points, namely, Newbern, Goldsborough, Wilmington, and Raleigh. I directed the work, and resided, during my term of service, chiefly at the first-named place, making brief visits to the other localities, as occasion required. The duties of the office

at Newbern were discharged by myself and several able assistants, and were of the deepest interest, our calls amounting to no less than four and five hundred, and, in one instance, to six hundred soldiers in a single day. Many of these applicants were needy men of Sherman's and Schofield's armies, and others were released prisoners from Wilmington, Andersonville, and Columbia, whose claims to sympathy and assistance, arising from long months of suffering, made it a sacred duty to minister to their relief. It was a touching sight to behold—these men as they entered our office and made their simple requests, asking, in the great majority of cases, for some article of trifling value, such as a shirt, a pair of shoes, or a comb; or else as eagerly desiring to be furnished with either a pocket Testament or some religious paper, after naming one that had been familiar to them at their homes. They seemed fully impressed with the value, and were peculiarly affected by what may be called the parental character of the Commission, in making provision, as it did, for even their smallest wants. The coldest-hearted contributor to the charity would have had his eyes moistened inevitably, at hearing the daily repetition of requests preferred in this modest and hesitating way: 'You can't give me a few dried apples, can you?' 'I'd like to have a little blackberry syrup, if you have any.' 'The only thing I want is a pair of suspenders.' 'Can you spare me one of those little combs?' It can not be unworthy of record—and the mention of the fact will give pleasure, I am sure, to thousands of generous workers—that the comfort-bags and their contents—evidences of a love that never wearied—were fully appreciated by these noble men. It was amusing to hear the articles in question called for by such a strange variety of appellations. One wanted 'a comfort-bag,' another 'a housewife,' another 'a work-bag,' while still another asked for 'a needle-album,' this last evidently giving himself no little credit for originating so clever a name.

"Copies of the Bible and of the Testament were also thankfully received. Great numbers of men returning to their distant homes applied for these, and for a few small religious books, 'for the children,' showing clearly that through months and years of hardship and exposure to manifold temptations, they still retained fond memories of home. Our stock of Bibles having been quite exhausted toward

the close of our stay, I was obliged to write orders for these upon the Commission officers at Richmond, Baltimore, and other Northern cities, so eager was the desire of many of these heroes to have a Bible to carry home from the war.

"In how many humble cottages of the various States of the Union are these precious books now treasured and reverently handled, and what countless thrilling memories will they awaken, as they speak—as no other Bibles can speak to their possessors—the words of eternal life!

"Beside office distribution, much was also accomplished in the way of furnishing reading matter—chiefly in the form of tracts and newspapers—to soldiers in the hospitals and camps, and to those arriving or departing on the cars.

"The work performed in connection with the branch offices of Goldsborough, Wilmington, and Raleigh, was of like character to that which I have referred to, except that at these there were larger facilities for the important work of outdoor and indoor preaching than were available at Newbern, where the throng of applicants and constant demands from the various stations threw so large an amount of office-labor upon a willing but overburthened force.

"With regard to the delegates with whom it was my privilege to be associated, I can only say that they toiled faithfully and incessantly in what was, to them, a labor of love, several of them working on with unflagging energy, until prevented, by utter prostration of bodily strength, from working any longer in the cause. While it would give me great pleasure to name all of these brethren, and to specify the service of each, I can not omit to mention the names of Brothers Thomas, Dinsmore, and Gregory, of the office at Wilmington; Brothers Downey, Cochran, and Allen, at Raleigh; Brothers Noble, Weed, Andrews, Campbell, Sultzer, and Garland, at Newbern; and Brothers Pierce and Sellick at Goldsborough; all of whom put forth their best exertions, and merit the warmest praise. The services of Brother Gregory, at Wilmington, were greater than those of any other, from the circumstance that his opportunities were larger, and were fully and enthusiastically embraced. Among the sick and dying of the returned prisoners, brought into Wilmington, and forming a dismal caravan of woe, beside the bed of each ghastly

sufferer, in all the indescribable fearfulness of those fantastic, horrid scenes, this strong-hearted man passed with words of tenderest consolation, and with precious deeds of love.

"Such a service was only possible to one strong in faith. It can not remain without record upon earth; it can be duly measured and fitly recompensed only in heaven. Thanking yourself and Dr. Bishop, and the other members of the Committee for the privilege of occupying an humble place among your laborers, and acknowledging, gratefully, your unwavering kindness and support, I remain,

"Very truly yours, WASHINGTON RODMAN,

"Agent for North-Carolina."

The following shows the need of delegates:

"DONALDSONVILLE, LA., January, 1864.

"I find this to be the best place to establish my headquarters, as I can, conveniently from this point, supply Thibodeaux, Napoleonville, Plaquemine, and the few other places included in my field of labor. There are two or three regiments, or about one thousand men, at each of the above-mentioned places, and not one of the regiments has a chaplain. You may be sure, therefore, that a delegate of the Christian Commission need not be idle in this vicinity. Some of the regiments about here have not been well supplied with reading matter heretofore. They are therefore very anxious to obtain the books and papers supplied by the Christian Commission.

"Among the books and pamphlets you sent, there is one, especially, in the praise of which I desire to speak, and I shall endeavor to place numbers of them in every company. It is the little work by Dr. Hall, of New-York, entitled *Soldier-Health*. The many useful hints to the soldier that it contains, as to the best method of preserving health, fortifying the system against disease, stopping the bleeding wounds in the absence of a surgeon, etc., must certainly, if observed, greatly lessen the mortality of our armies. All the surgeons with whom I have spoken concerning it, pronounce it an excellent work.

"The geographies, arithmetics, slates, etc., came very acceptably. I supplied the hospital in this place with some, and I find they are in

use when I visit there. Many of the convalescents seem very much interested in their intellectual advancement.

"The pickles, dried fruit, etc., which you sent, I have endeavored to distribute to the most needy ones. The berries I gave to the patients in the hospital, and they received them with unfeigned thankfulness.

"This morning, I attended the funeral of one of the patients, a member of the Twenty-sixth Regiment Indiana volunteers, who died yesterday.

"If all our soldiers who meet death in their country's service could leave behind such cheering testimony, that 'to die is gain' to them, the hearts of many friends at home would not be so wrung with bitter grief as now; for the question is not alone, 'Has my husband, my brother, or my son fallen?' but a more momentous question is: 'Will he rise to the resurrection of life?'

"I visited the deceased frequently during the day or two previous to his death, and found him prepared to meet the 'King of terrors' in peace. The evening before he died, I offered to write home for him if he so desired. 'Yes,' he replied, 'I would like to have you write to my wife. Tell her that I am very sick, and I may drop away soon, but that I do not fear to go. Tell her also that I want her to be a Christian, and then if we do not meet in this world, we will meet in a better one above.' I asked him if he had property at home of which he wished to give directions. 'No,' said he, 'I am a poor man. I have no land and no property of great value.' 'Poor,' I added, 'as regards temporal things, but rich in eternal things. You have no lands, no mansion here; but you have an inheritance to a *kingdom* above, and a home in the "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens," will be yours.' 'Yes,' he replied, in a tone and manner that satisfied me that he appreciated the priceless gift.

"An hour or two before he expired, he said: 'I am going to leave you. I am going on a long journey, but I do not fear to go.' He seemed to have no doubt nor fears whatever. His confidence in death seemed to impress deeply the minds of the other occupants of the ward, most of whom were not professors of religion.

"Now came the sad task of writing to his young companion, and informing her that she was no longer a wife beloved, but a *widow*.

But I could render a word of consolation by informing her that we had reason to believe that her loss was his gain, and could also point her to him who is a special God of the widow and the fatherless.

"I now have a regular appointment for Sabbath service, and expect to make arrangements for several other appointments."

Concerning the colored troops, a delegate writes:

"The colored soldiers, many of them, are trying hard to learn, and some of them succeed far beyond what could be expected. It is not an uncommon thing to see them going forth in the morning to a twenty-four hours' picket-duty with a musket in one hand and a book in the other—a fact full of significance. They prize the books and papers provided for them by the Christian Commission very highly, and are very thankful to get them. They often say they must be mighty good folks up in the North, to send them down such nice books and papers for them to learn out of.

"The white soldiers also appear very thankful for any gift bestowed upon them, and speak very highly of the Commission, and frequently say: 'We are not forgotten by our friends at home, although we are far away."

A delegate from the Department of the Gulf writes:

"I find the soldiers, almost to a man, very glad to get the publications offered them. There is much vice in the army, but there are counteracting influences. In several of the regiments, recently here from the West, revivals have been progressing for many months. Chaplain H——— has baptized upward of forty of his regiment. Chaplain D——— reports a good work, and says there are hundreds of praying men in his regiment. Others speak of encouraging tokens. So you see there are bright spots, though much darkness. I labor with much cheerfulness in this good work."

Another, upon the receipt of reading matter, says:

"Accept my heartfelt thanks for the packages of excellent reading matter you sent me. I did not keep it but a small portion over twelve hours. My own regiment would have taken all if I would have allowed it. You ought to have seen with what greediness the poor

hungry boys grasped those welcome papers, for they had been nearly two weeks without any thing to read. The spelling-books go fast, as many of the men can not read. Testaments, hymn-books, almanacs, and papers are wanted. I have about five thousand men in my brigade."

The following extracts show with what system the work was done:

"I have the honor to submit my naval report for the 'West Gulf Blockading Squadron.' I have eighty-five vessels, which are scattered from Florida to Texas—a large proportion being at Mobile at present, and from ten to twelve always here, New-Orleans, in the river. The vessels have on board an aggregate of about six thousand men. I give every vessel one package once in two weeks, making one hundred and seventy per month. On an average, there is one paper to every three men, and one tract or little book to every six men. This is about my proportion of the publications received at this office. I visit the Naval Hospital and Soldiers' Home regularly, talk and pray with the sick, distribute reading matter, and on Sunday preach twice and three times."

The following letter tells its own story:

"Morganzia, La., January 5, 1865.

"It has been in my heart some days to give a more detailed report of the work of the Commission in connection with the chapel tent. It affords facilities for the distribution of reading matter and sanitary stores. My circulating library is quite an institution of itself. Here are about six thousand soldiers in camp. They find much time for reading. I am happy to say, many of them appreciate and improve the opportunity. At the same time, the tent is fitted up for religious meetings. This seemed to be needful: first, from the fact that so few chaplains are in the service, (only one at this place now;) second, the soldiers need a rallying-point around which they can gather for devotions, especially in the months of the winter. Sunday evening about nine, I commenced an evening meeting, which has been continued with growing numbers and interest to this time, preaching Sun-

day and Wednesday evenings, prayer-meeting other evenings. Bible-class Sunday A.M., largely attended by officers and men.

"The prayer-meetings have been most effective. Friday evening, October twenty-eighth, there seemed to be a solemn spirit prevailing. On invitation to the thoughtful and anxious, to the surprise of some, nine soldiers rose for prayer. Since then there has been constant revival. Not less than twenty have received salvation in connection with these meetings. At no time has the work appeared so deep and hopeful as at the present. Some cases have been of special interest. A young sergeant from Delaware arose, confessed his need of Christ, and earnestly begged us to pray for him. A few evenings after, he rose, referring to the fact, said: 'It has been a blessing to my soul; and now I want you to pray that I may be a faithful Christian. I have pious friends at home.' Another rose for prayers. I spoke with him after meeting; he said: 'I have a father in heaven; my mother is on the way to heaven; nothing would rejoice her so much as to know of my becoming a Christian.' He repeatedly afterward spoke with assurance of sins forgiven; was a sinful boy when he came into the army, and grew more sinful till his conversion. One day a soldier came into my tent, sat down, and wept like a child. I said: 'What is your trouble?' He answered: 'Three days ago I received a letter from my father, near Philadelphia, informing me that my mother is dead. I know she is gone to heaven; and I know, unless I am a changed man, I can never meet her there; for I have been a great sinner; and this is my trouble.' He is first at meeting and first on his feet for prayers. Last evening he said the light was dawning on him. His countenance indicated it. He has been from home ten years, a prodigal son, desires to live to see his aged father once more, and the grave of his mother. But I must not multiply cases like the above.

"The testimonies of pious soldiers in meetings are truly edifying. One was converted seventeen years ago, amid storm and tempest, in the mountains of Virginia; is himself *rather stormy*—at least he seems to believe that the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it *by force*. Another thanks God that he was converted on the broad prairies of Iowa, another on Pike Creek, another in a rude chapel in Kentucky, and another at his bedside in Massa-

chusetts. Nearly all bless God for praying mothers. In a word, these meetings are of thrilling interest — great occasions, sometimes as many outside as inside the tent; the most perfect decorum. I confess my heart is warm as I write. To me it is a luxury to serve such a cause. My labors have been excessive. My health is not what it was when I came into the service, and yet I am not sick. General Ullman has kindly detailed a man to assist me—a pious, capable brother from the One Hundred and Fourteenth Ohio Regiment. I have no doubt he will render valuable assistance, and without any expense to the Commission.

"The boys now propose to build a chapel in addition to my tent, so that we will be better able to accommodate the large numbers who desire to attend the meetings. We confidently expect a great revival here this winter, and thus will the true objects of the Christian Commission be realized.

"Trusting we have the prayers of the good and the blessing of God, we thank God and take courage.

"I have the honor to be your most obedient servant."

Chaplains were often aided by the Commission, and the following shows how such aid was appreciated :

"I desire, by this note, very gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of a fine box of books, brought me by your Agent, Mr. Metcalf. They meet my wants exactly, and are of a kind and quality to insure them a ready acceptance among the men.

"I feel myself greatly indebted to the Christian Commission for the supplies of books they have granted me. My library is invaluable. I have made it circulating, and have from seventy to eighty books out all the time. The men read what they get with avidity. They come to me at all hours, and receive, with the most unbounded gratitude, what I have to give them.

"My selection is of such a kind as to enable me to adapt the books to every condition of mind amongst the men. To one, anxious on the subject of religion, I give the *Anxious Inquirer*, or *Come to Jesus*. In the hands of the Christian, I put *Christian Progress*, or *Earnest Thoughts*, or *Headley Vicars*. To the careless, I give

something which will lead them to the Saviour. Already, I see the good effect. My prayer-meetings are well attended, my meetings more interesting, and the moral tone of the regiment perceptibly elevated. My Bibles and Testaments are almost all gone. Men come in for them who had none at home. Several have asked and received them who, I am sure, would have spurned the word of God a few months ago. I need yet the hymn-books. With them, we shall be able, I trust, to resist the demoralization of war, and drive back the forces of Satan.

"I can not tell you how much benefited and encouraged we are by your beautiful gifts. I hope to report many cases of conversion to God, resulting from your efforts. My regiment blesses you for your kindness.

"The primers and spelling-books for the contrabands, I will distribute at my earliest opportunity. I intend to start a school myself among them, if my duties will permit—and I think I can arrange them for it—and I will report you my success. I gave primers to the boys employed in the regiment. One of them, the Colonel told me to-day, lay by his fire until midnight, trying to decipher his letters I gave another to a bright youngster, and a few minutes after, I saw him sitting on a stump, book in hand, while a little drummer-boy was teaching him to read.

"I would be glad if you would send me the hymn-books—we need them badly. Wishing you at all times success in your good work."

HOW READING MATTER WAS VALUED.

"I am much pleased with the volumes. They are interesting works, but will not supply half the number of those that want them. I have not found a man that is not both able and anxious to read. Every thing readable is seized with avidity. All can read English except one Frenchman. If we had as many more volumes of miscellaneous or secular works to add to these, the library would then subserve the end fully. Good secular reading is of great usefulness to those who would not read a positively religious book, or who would otherwise be viciously occupied.

"If the Committee will duplicate in number and vary in character

the catalogue forwarded, they will truly meet the wants of this most important and useful field. Please send promptly, as they are sorely needed. It is hard to deny any hungry man food for the soul.

"I doubt if a more useful field of labor than this can be found. It should have a permanent chaplain, of true Harlan Page character. The field would be ruined by an unadapted man. The sailor and the soldier must have a lover of souls and of Christ, whose discernment in winning their affections and meeting their difficulties will enable him to take them like little children to Jesus. There is no difficulty whatever in winning any man. One of the most interesting conversions of the past week here, is a truly promising young man, who was reared strictly in the papal faith. I found him a most wonderfully tractable case, after a few 'regular approaches,' as the besiegers say. He soon became deeply anxious to have me speak with him, and sit by his side, and point him by faith to the cross. He is not ashamed of his new position at the feet of Jesus and in our meetings of prayer.

"No case is so hardened as to be impenetrable. A man, seventy years old, has, during the past week, taken his stand with the people of God, after a life given wholly to Satan. He had been a wealthy man in one of our large cities—wasting his nights in the club-room, until finally he 'spent his all in riotous living;' followed his wife to her grave, broken-hearted and stripped of her paternal legacy; and then plunged into lower depths—was shipped under a false representation of his age, and brought a sufferer to this hospital, where the Spirit of God has transformed him wholly.

"There are instances here of men who have acknowledged that they had given up all hope of ever being saved—supposed they were beyond the power of grace—but have been drawn by 'the cords of love and bands of a man.' Two days since, I spoke to a very interesting man—a husband and father—from the city of New-York. He had insuperable difficulties to religion, he said, because of the doctrine of eternal punishment. I took him at once into his own heart, and showed him that the very truth at which he stumbled so seriously had an unmistakable existence—hell begun already, and must develop throughout unending ages; and then appealed to him as a father, dragging his little ones with him. That night he was at the prayer-

meeting, and again at six next morning. Going past him the next day to speak to others, I said: 'Good morning.' 'Oh!' said he, 'I am so thankful you spoke to me yesterday. I was all wrong—and then your portrayal of my influence as a father broke my heart. I can't live so. I have determined to serve the Lord, and unite myself with His dear people.' He is heartily absorbed in divine things, and looks with a shudder into the pit from whence he has escaped.

"I trust the Committee will call for men of true spiritual power—men of judgment, who will win officers and men—men who can meet the objections, and errors, and prejudices of both—who will command respect and win hearts—ready men, pleasant, cheerful, courteous, Christian gentlemen and working Christians. It is, and yet it is not, astonishing to see how intuitive the soldiers and sailors are to read human nature and Christian nature. Don't send delegates of any other class—better send fewer than to send others. I speak for the Commission and the cause.

"Yesterday, the chaplain of the Thirteenth New-Hampshire, stationed on the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad, between four and seven miles hence, came to see me—has been twice—hoping to obtain Testaments and periodicals, but I had none for him. He is a warm-hearted, catholic, good man. He wants fifty Testaments for his regiment alone. Will you forward promptly to me a quantity of Testaments for this region? We want English with few exceptions—two or three hundred at least."

"Newbern, 1863.

"I am axiously awaiting the publications I wrote for, and expect them by the Ellen S. Terry, which is due here in a day or two. I have made arrangements for the distribution of most of them, and have need of others. Many chaplains consider these publications a most valuable aid, and beside distributing them among their own regiments, act as colporteurs among neighboring regiments, destitute of chaplains. In the regiments not otherwise provided for, of which I have found a good number, I visit each tent, and in this way have an opportunity not only to reach each man with the publications, but also to converse with them, and become in a measure acquainted with them. The reception I have met with has been gratifying and encouraging. But there has been such a general and constant move-

ment of troops, that my work has been partially interrupted. Affairs are, however, becoming more quiet and settled now. A brigade has returned from Charleston, and I shall have need of a good many more publications. I will thank you to send, by the first opportunity, the following, namely:

"Twenty-five hundred English Testaments; one hundred German Testaments; two thousand hymn-books, (Young Men's Association;) one thousand hymn-books, (Tract Society;) one thousand Sketch of Life of Havelock; one thousand Soldiers' Life and Every Day Battles, (Episcopal Society;) one hundred volumes for libraries; five hundred small books, paper covers; two thousand Messengers for May; one thousand Christian Banners; one thousand Tract Journals; one thousand each of six selected tracts. To be supplied by next opportunity."

From the foregoing letters and extracts, it will be seen that proper reading matter was regarded by delegates and chaplains as of very great importance.

The Committee fully appreciated the value of this agency, and did all they could to meet the demands made upon them.

In looking back upon their work, they feel that, next to the relieving of present physical wants, through the personal agency of the delegates, the providing and furnishing suitable books, magazines, and newspapers conferred the greatest and most permanent benefits upon the soldiers and sailors. Wherever this provision was made, the effects were most manifest in the employments, habits, and general conduct of the men. The intense eagerness with which reading matter was invariably received, is the best possible evidence of its usefulness.

In re-reading the correspondence of the Committee, it has been a matter of surprise to see what a large proportion of the letters of the delegates and of chaplains and officers is occupied either in applying for books and papers, or in giving an account of the interest with which they were received and read.

The Committee feel deeply grateful that they were enabled to do as much as they did in this particular department of their labors.

Public Meetings.

One of the effective agencies employed for enlisting the sympathies and securing the coöperation of the whole community in the work of the Commission, was that of holding public meetings. These usually took place in churches or in lecture-rooms, and were addressed by delegates recently from the seat of war, and others. In this way the reality of the work was more directly and practically brought before the public mind.

During the war there were occasions when it seemed important to give more than ordinary dignity and impressiveness to these meetings. Such was the case in the early days of the Commission, when the great meeting in the Academy of Music was held, of which some notice has already been given. The presence of General Scott and of other distinguished military chieftains, as well as leading men in the civil walks of life, gave to that meeting an importance and significance which made its influence felt over the whole land.

On Sunday evening, the fifteenth of May, 1864, another meeting of a similar character was held in the Academy of Music. It was a period of intense excitement. General Grant was fighting his way to Richmond on that line where he was long delayed but from which he was never driven. The nation was watching his movements with breathless attention, as he fought, day by day, the terrible battles of the Wilderness. Under these circumstances the meeting took place. There was a vast assemblage. The spacious edifice was literally packed in every part, and thousands went away, unable to obtain admittance. William E. Dodge, Esq.,

presided. The venerable Bishop McIlvaine, of Ohio, offered prayer. Addresses were made by the Chairman, the Rev. William Adams, D.D., the Rev. E. N. Kirk, D.D., the Rev. J. T. Duryea, and George H. Stuart, Esq. The following resolutions were offered by William H. Aspinwall, Esq.:

"*Resolved*, That the objects and labors of the Christian Commission eminently commend themselves to the patriotism and Christianity of our country.

"*Resolved*, That the men who are perilling life, and health, and fortune, for the preservation of our country, should receive the full-hearted Christian sympathy and support of the people of this land.

"*Resolved*, That in these ministrations of mercy, the wants and claims of the thousands who, in the providence of God, are committed to our hands as prisoners of war, should not be overlooked or neglected. To care for such is peculiarly in accordance with the precepts and example of our divine Lord, whose name we bear, and in whose service we are engaged.

"*Resolved*, That it be urged upon all our churches and citizens, that their prayers and contributions and efforts be given promptly and without stint, to the work so wisely commenced and so effectually carried on by the Christian Commission."

General Anderson rose and said: "I second these resolutions with all my heart." They were then passed unanimously.

This meeting created a deep impression and was productive of much good.

The last meeting of this kind was held in March, 1865. As a fair specimen of these large meetings, and as giving a comprehensive view of the spirit and work of the Commission, the proceedings on this occasion are given entire, as they were reported for the Committee.

MEETING OF THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,

AT THE

Academy of Music, New-York City, Sunday, March 19, 1865.

The meeting was called to order by the presiding officer, Rev. Alexander H. Vinton, D.D., at half-past seven o'clock P.M.

The President said: I am desired by the Managers to make a request to the audience, that there shall, during the evening, be no demonstrations of applause.

The exercises will commence by singing the hymn,

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

For him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown his head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
The prisoner leaps to loose his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

Where he displays his healing power,
Death and the curse are known no more;
In him the tribes of Adam boast
More blessings than their father lost.

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen.

PRAYER BY THE REV. DR. BURLINGHAM.

Let us pray. Great God! for Jesus' sake behold thy servants met here to-night in the interests of this great Christian charity. We are here because we are in trouble as a nation. Our fellow-citizens have gone forth to stand up and fight in defense of the institutions which are common to us all; and while they go forth breasting the storm of battle, we feel it a privilege to sustain them, not only by our prayers and sympathies at home, but by every tender care and consideration, and by every thing in the way of comfort which our invention or our money can furnish them. We thank Thee that in this interest this Christian Commission has sprung up. We rejoice in the benevolence and patriotism that has called it into being. We rejoice in the men that Thou hast placed at its head. We thank Thee for the economy, the justice, and the integrity with which its affairs have been administered. We thank Thee that the loyal women of this country have in it found free and hearty scope for their handiwork. We thank Thee that our merchant-princes, our tradesmen, our mechanics, our laborers, and our artisans, have poured into its treasury so much of their funds. We thank Thee for all the blessings that this institution has brought to desolated hearthstones—to homes that have been made vacant and sorrowful by the deaths of loved ones. We thank Thee for the blessings of humanity and religion which this institution has carried to camp and hospital, and to the battle-field. But, O Lord! war still rages. Peace has not yet dawned upon us. Our brave sons are yet upon the field. We are on the eve of another battle. We need, O God! to keep ourselves nerved up to this great struggle in sympathy and power and in benefaction; and we beseech Thee that we may not shrink from the duty which is before us. O Lord! still let Thy blessing rest upon this Christian Commission. We beseech Thee that Thou wouldst give it favor still in the eyes of the public; and, as its claims are presented to men of means and patriotism, may those claims be responded to. And, as we shall listen to-night to those who have just come from these scenes of war, we pray that their burning words may sink into our hearts; for they come not as theorists, but as practical men. And may this meeting result not only in the quickening of our patri-

otism, in sustaining our patience in this war, in raising our hopes of final success, but oh! may it result in something substantial and something that is *immediately required* to carry blessings and comforts to our men, who are sacrificing their lives for us and for our common cause. Lord, hear us in these our prayers. Bless this meeting, and make it successful. Make it tell upon the interests of our beloved but imperilled country, and upon the spread of God's glory and our civilization. We ask and offer all these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. *Amen.*

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The PRESIDENT then rose and said:

MY FRIENDS: We are gathered here to-night in behalf of an institution which I apprehend to be unique in its character, as it is singular in its origin, having no historical precedent. The Christian Commission is the product of this generation, of this land, and of this our present and pressing war. Historians assure us that war is the great civilizer of mankind; yet I suppose that the idea is to be sustained on the ground of an extension, rather than of an inspiration; as an improvement bestowed rather than awakened, by which the conquering and cultured people overlaps and overlays, with its own civilization, the barbarism of the defeated nation. But, even if it were otherwise, we have seen a greater and more marvellous phenomenon; for war has, in our time, proved itself to be absolutely a Christianizing power, since out of our war has grown this Christian institution.

Who would have dreamed that the seed of Christianity could be fertilized by the dust and blood of the battle-field? Who would conceive that Christ's *plant of grace* should bear the rich, ripe fruits of salvation, with its roots bedded in carnage and its boughs whirling amidst the sirocco blasts of fierce and warlike passions? It was wonderful enough that the great Saviour should be brought into life in a stable. It is a no less wonderful record that Christ has been born in a camp.

But this war has been characterized, from the beginning, with a sort of revival power of religion. The principle which, in the first

place, impelled the people as one man to the conflict, was the deep-laid sentiment of loyalty, itself an approximate religion, bearing the aspect of piety. It was, however, only an indirect and reflected form of religious conviction—the moonlight of piety—clear and bright, streaming athwart the black waste of treason, yet cool withal, wanting the depth and fervor of a governing enthusiasm. Soon, however, the religious element of loyalty passed into a stage of advancement. The moonlight was changed to daylight—warmer, livelier, more genial, and with a vitalizing force. This fresh development took the form of philanthropy—a positive and personal interest for those of our kith and kin who had taken their lives in their hands, and gone to wage the patriot war in free self-sacrifice; that social and fraternal sympathy which the poet calls

"The electric chain wherewith we are darkly bound,"

sprang into action. *The chain began to lose its darkness!* It scintillated into expression with the thrill and vibration of individual hearts. Then it flashed in burning words of sympathetic appeal, and at last burst into bright and definite flame, in the form of an organized Christian charity—the Sanitary Commission.

This beneficent institution illustrated one aspect of the Gospel, in its pity for the suffering, and its free-handed bounty to a soldier's varied wants. Drawing without stint or prohibition from the ample resources of our people, it went to the very front to meet and embrace our suffering brothers in arms; and it went on no bootless errand.

Let it have credit and blessing for its labors of love. But the progressive religious element of the war was not satisfied with this. It had not yet reached its ascendant sphere and its culminating power. There was a sublimer charity to be achieved in the use of Christianity's spiritual forces. The Gospel had not yet been preached to "the poor in spirit," nor the recovery of sight to the blind soul, nor deliverance to the captive, nor "the acceptable year of the Lord" to men who were rushing to the verge of their own years. There was need for a more comprehensive agency of benevolence. And to meet this want, the Christian Commission was formed. It aimed not to

rival, still less to supersede the Sanitary Commission, but only to supplement its labors of love with the works of faith, and thus to complete the grand round of Christian duties. So, like the Daughter of Mercy, the Christian Commission went to the field, following, at a respectful distance, her beautiful but one-armed elder sister. She went with her arms loaded with a double bounty—the gifts of Providence and the blessings of grace—not overlooking the material in her anxiety and care for the spiritual; curing together the maladies of the body and the sickness of the soul; binding up at once the wounded limb and the broken heart; sustaining in every way the mortal manhood, that she might better retrieve and rescue the lost immortal. Her sister Commission wrought for the soldiers' health and comfort; she labored for their everlasting life and peace. If the agency of the one was sanatory, the mission of the other was saving.

How far she has succeeded in her work, it is not within my purpose nor my province to declare. I only introduce upon your platform this agent of many mercies, bringing her credentials of character and usefulness, and invoking your interest in her gracious labors. But why invoke your interest, when the aspect of this waiting crowd testifies abundantly that your interest is already awakened? Some of you have come, no doubt, from the purest Christian sympathy with this high work; some, perhaps, from the laudable curiosity to learn how your alms-deeds have been prospered; others, it may be, with other and closer feelings, in the recollection of husband, brother, or son, who, in the hour of agony, has been met by this loving agency, and relieved in body and in soul; while some of you, it is not impossible, may have been yourselves the receivers of this divine bounty, and are here from the impulse of holy gratitude.

With any of these feelings you are ready to welcome, with full hearts, the persons who shall now detail the doings of the Commission, in illustration of its beneficence.

I take pleasure, therefore, in introducing the Rev. J. T. Duryea, a Delegate of the Christian Commission, recently returned from the field of war.

ADDRESS OF REV. J. T. DURYEA.

Mr. Duryea said:

When last, sir, we met here to celebrate the anniversary of the Christian Commission, our brave boys were fighting those terrible battles of the Wilderness. They were forcing their way against the rebel host—crushing them in, then flanking them, and hurling themselves upon them afresh, until they had, by the force of faith and courage, and the strong right arm, driven the invader to his home. God grant that they may never have such another campaign to fight; and if this prayer were heard in Richmond now, there would be echoed from army to cabinet, and from cabinet to army, Amen and Amen! Our delegates were moving in the thickets of the Wilderness, caring for the wounded, binding up their wounds, taking their last messages, preserving their mementoes, whispering to them the consolations of the Gospel, commending them to the grace of God, and lifting their hearts to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. There came up a cry from them: "Come and help us!" We were gathered here upon that Sabbath night, which so many of you will remember, with the cloud of sadness over us, our hearts full, our eyes pouring tears, waiting for heavy tidings, sick with hope deferred. Our anxiety was then that the swift feet and tender hands of the ministers of Christ should be found by the side of the wounded and the dying, and our eyes were filled with tears, and our hearts were wrung with sympathy for their anguish. Now that army is at rest. No sound of battle is heard. No call to war is uttered. As peaceful, on this Sabbath day, have they reclined, on picket and in camp, as we have been in our homes and sanctuaries. Those who are in the far front have been taught to cross ravines and swamps and plains, as brethren severed by conventionalism, but ready to welcome each other with open arms and forgiving hearts, the moment the sound of peace shall be sweetly heard in the land. We have, therefore, no scenes of anguish to paint before your eyes; we have no horrors of the battle-field with which to try your hearts; and we are glad, for now we shall bring before you with more distinctness, the peculiar work in which we are engaged. Had there been no other interest of the soldier demanding our sympathy but the welfare

of his body, the Christian Commission would never have been formed. It stands before Christendom as a monument of the faith of the American Church in the great doctrine of man's ruin, and the great fact of God's complete salvation. It is a testimony to all the earth, that Jesus Christ hath come into the world to save sinners; that a man must be born again, or he can not see the kingdom of God. It hath arisen that it may go down to the soldier in the work which is left, shortening the period of his probation, to tell him of his need of a Saviour; to tell him of his need of the renewing power of the Holy Spirit; to lead him to repent of his sins; to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, and to find peace, comfort, joy, and hope in believing. We shall, therefore, tell you to-night, not of the agonies of war, but of the anguish of convicted souls; we shall rehearse before you, not the triumphs of the great, but the triumphs of the cross.

My recent visit to the army has impressed me with the fact that there is no such missionary field now lying open to any Church as that afforded by our army surrounding Richmond. There are forty-five miles of breastworks and fortifications; and from within seven miles of Richmond, where we can see its spires, round the semicircle off Hatcher's Run, lay thickly-settled villages of tents, teeming with young men in the vigor and fire of manhood. They are ready to hear the Gospel. Their ears are open whenever the minister of God stands up to declare the unsearchable riches of Christ. Their tears are free and generous. Their hearts are frank and warm, and God's Spirit has been moving among them. Our march, hurried as it was, to Hatcher's Run, was like that of Whitefield upon his early tour, or Wesley among the colliers of England. Everywhere was a congregation. Everywhere were attentive ears, open hearts, and quick, retentive memories. The seed scattered there will be brought to maturity under the bracing power of swift thought and intensity of feeling, when the great struggle comes. It is not my purpose to make a speech to-night. I come as a witness to tell a simple story, and I shall commence at the beginning, and go as far as I may. I will let you look through my eyes, and hear with my ears, and do all I can to make as vivid to you, and as real, what will never fade from my vision or be obliterated from my memory.

We had not more than stowed our baggage in our state-rooms,

on the steamer from Baltimore to Fortress Monroe, before that irresistible and invincible President of the Christian Commission came, with part of the Bible in one hand and a hymn-book in the other, and said, what every delegate of the Christian Commission well understood: "We are going to have a meeting." "Where, sir?" "Right in the cabin," was the reply. Here were officers lounging about, reading the evening papers, some on chairs talking under the gaslight; soldiers reclining where they could get a place, and civilians moving here and there, because of the scarcity of places where one could either sit or recline. We stepped into the midst of the cabin. A hymn was announced, and we began to sing. The men clustered at our feet; and there, at the start, before we had reached the field, our work was begun. It did not seem to be out of place. It was a thing expected of the Christian Commission. The soldiers had seen it so often, that it was quite natural to them that it should be so. Now, if I should step into the cabin of one of our North River steamers and begin a meeting, it might seem out of place, presumptuous, and even impertinent; but the soldier has learned to live by the wayside, to do things as they best may be done, without the ordinary implements and formalities of home; and so, when a religious service is improvised, it does not take him by surprise or startle his sense of fitness, and he is ready to hear. But this was not the place where we wanted to be. Although it was interesting to talk to the officers and civilians, yet we wanted to be down close to the heart of the boys. So, after the closing up of the meeting, we stood in the gangway. I wish I could paint that scene. Imagine a pile of boxes all the way between the gangway and the engine-room, with blue coats stowed all over them, enveloping sleeping soldiers strewed all over the deck. They were lying thickly packed, with here and there a tortuous avenue, through which passengers might tread, as they went from one part of the vessel to the other. The sweet voice that the soldiers know almost throughout the whole army front, said: "Boys, we want to have a meeting with you." Immediately their capes were thrown from off their heads, their eyes were opened out of sleep, and they began to look earnestly at us. They gathered round us. There could be seen the bronzed veteran of many a campaign, and here were boys just fresh from a father's blessing and a mother's embrace.

There were men who had escaped from prison; there were men who had long lain in hospitals; and they gathered at our feet and pressed upon us in the gangway. Some familiar hymn was started. How many hymns the soldiers have learned! how many associations in memory are quickened and made real, and wind themselves round their hearts, at the sound of such a line as this!

"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear."

With what martial earnestness and promptness they sing this thrilling hymn!

"All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall!
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all."

I shall never forget the flickering of the lights in the gangway upon those sun-burnt, war-beaten faces. Never shall I forget the look of those earnest eyes and the devouring intensity of those eager countenances. Oh! it was easy to preach. If you will give us in New-York such listening, we will preach here before you in our sanctuaries, as we are enabled to preach in the army. With such an audience as that, you need only ask God's blessing, then open your mouth and let the words gush out. If I had had a manuscript with me, I would have used it to stand upon, but not to preach from. It came to my turn to speak. Without announcing any text, I took the analogy of the "brazen serpent." Just before me there was one man who seemed to be awakened. He looked at me, listening intently, and then turned and whispered to one who stood beside him. He was dressed in a blue overcoat. He was a private soldier; and I learned afterward that he said to the person by his side: "I once preached from that text myself!" There was a soldier in a private's uniform, a minister of the Gospel once! And afterward, with tears in his eyes, he testified before that crowd that he was not what once he was; that through temptations and evil associations, and

the power of that fire which consumes the better part of man, he had become degraded and an outcast from God and his Church; and there, before us, he renewed the pledge that he would be faithful to the God whom he had forsaken. He turned to his companions and begged their pardon, in our presence, first, for his criminal silence, and then for his more criminal example. Oh! how our hearts ran together in tenderness! How the tears from our eyes reflected the tears from theirs! and we found that God was over us, and we were drawn together in a holy nearness to him. Arriving at Fortress Monroe, we changed our steamer for another; and as soon as we had stowed away our baggage, there again was our leader, with his hymn-book and Testament, saying: "Get ready for a meeting." And so we had to stand in the gangway again, and there gathered about us a motley crowd from off the boat, comprising officers, soldiers, and civilians. We began in the same way, by singing a hymn, offering a short and earnest prayer, and then one after another, out of the fullness of our hearts, preaching the simple Gospel. The scene was nearly the same as the night before, under the flickering lamp-light. One incident will bring out some of the most tender and touching scenes which we see in the camp and in the field. At the close of the service the leader of the meeting said: "We would like all those in this company who profess faith in the Lord Jesus to hold up their right hands." Instantly, as a bayonet goes up at the word "Shoulder arms!" the hands began to shoot out of that mass of soldiers. Ay, but the leader forgot where he was. A second thought reminded him. "Boys," said he, "perhaps some of you have no right hand to hold up: you may hold up the left." In the middle of the crowd up went a left hand, and there stood a noble Christian colonel, (whose life was saved by one of the delegates of the Christian Commission on the battle-field,) with the tears streaming down his eyes and his lips quivering, his left hand pointing upward as a testimony of his faith. Arriving at City Point, we were immediately placed in an ambulance, and conveyed to the headquarters of the Christian Commission, which, although a rude building, was exceedingly comfortable, particularly to those who had learned to rough it, as all must do. Just in front of these quarters is a vast hospital, which has accommodated ten

thousand soldiers at once. Here the labors of the Christian Commission supplement the work of the faithful chaplains. And here let me stop, once for all, to give the heartiest and most decided testimony as to the nobleness and faithfulness of the chaplains in the army. Through political influence, favoritism, and the manner of appointment at the first, many of the chaplains were not the men they should have been; because men who cared not for souls had no courage to stand the privations and brave the perils of the battle-field. The campaigns that have brought men under fire have quickened consciences that are most terribly smitten. There were some unfaithful shepherds, and they have given their flocks to better and more faithful hands. But now let me say, I have not met a chaplain in the army who is not a worthy representative of Christ's Church, as a man of God and the ambassador of Christ. They cooperate with the Christian Commission, and our only aim is to supplement their lack of service.

But to resume. No sooner had we rested, than again a call came forth for a meeting. There was a large chapel on the ground. It was built, not simply because we were expected, but because the men were in the habit of gathering every night for a simple prayer-meeting. Here we were wedged upon the platform, between the masses upon either hand of eager soldiers. And one of the most beautiful of these army scenes is this—that the officer sits next the drummer-boy, and the private soldier shares a seat with his general. Oh! the thrilling power of this Gospel of Jesus Christ! We saw there a man with stars upon his shoulders, and the negro with his chevrons. We saw them intermingled—not classified, but beautifully interblended, as God is interblending them by this war. After visiting the next meeting and the Provost-Marshal General, (and here let me mention his name with the warmest affection—General Patrick, the Havelock of this war,) we were admitted to a prison, in which were gathered prisoners of our own and the rebel armies, one of the latter a wounded guerrilla. We stepped into the middle of the throng. They did not know for what we had come. We instantly told them, to remove their suspicions, that we desired to speak to them, as Christian men, about their religious interests. They gathered round us, and after a few words

of jocular conversation among them, understanding that we were sincere, and were not mocking them, they instantly gave us their respect. The power of sincere, of frank, of earnest, of loving Christianity was there displayed. In that motley crew, what lines of individual history we could read! How darkly had the finger of experience written the record of sin under those fallen eyes and upon those deeply-furrowed brows and cheeks! There, with heads uncovered, we asked God to bless us, to open the prison-doors that had closed upon their guilty souls, and make them free with the liberty of the sons of God. We were not afraid to close our eyes among bounty-jumpers, and thieves, and ruffians, and guerrillas; and when we opened them, it was to be greeted with the kindest attention, and to be accepted with the frankest cordiality. And there we stood upon that ground, with only the sky over our heads, and our congregation surrounding us, and preached twice. Oh! it was a new thing—an experience never to be forgotten; an experience that will inspire many a heart, and strengthen the courage of many a Christian man to do that sort of preaching at home which clinches the nail and makes it to stand fast in a sure place, that the man of God drives in the sanctuary and the pulpit.

It will not do for me to go over the whole ground, for my time is rapidly passing by; but I will just give you here the history of a Sabbath day's journey. We are told that this was a short journey in Oriental countries. It was a very long journey and a hard one for us. In order to be at the starting-place, we took the military railroad, and afterward went out with the general who conducted the battle at Hatcher's Run, to spend the night with him. We arrived in time for dinner. While the meal was being spread in a tent, he gave orders that the brigade should be mustered for preaching—a new element of military discipline. Why, they will have to make a new drumbeat, and teach the buglers a new bugle-call, in the American army. Who ever heard of a brigade mustered for preaching on a Saturday afternoon?

While we were at dinner the congregation was assembling; and, as we started out from the mess-tent, at our left hand stood the band, ready to accompany our sacred music, and about us the men who had, in that terrible conflict, leaped into the ice with rifles

in hand, and pushed their way through frozen waters to take that fortification from the rebels. There were Pennsylvania soldiers, the heroes of many a battle, who had almost lost the identity of their regimental organizations, they being so often decimated, again and again. We prepared to sing that noble hymn which is so often sung in our own churches to the tune of "Old Hundred." The band gave out "Duke Street," in that peculiar and swelling tone so peculiar to brass instruments and to the singing of vast masses of men, and then, accompanied by the full tone of the band, we sung:

"Before Jehovah's awful throne,
Ye nations bow with sacred joy;
Know that the Lord is God alone;
He can create and he destroy."

Then some of the brethren prayed, and I was astonished at these brethren. They tell me at home I do not know how to pray in public. I wish I could pray as well as they pray in the army. Then, after a few words of earnest exhortation, we dismissed the men and mounted our horses, to ride over the battle-field with the officer who directed the battle pointing out the places of interest; and he showed us, with the star glittering on his shoulder, where he had earned it in just fifteen minutes. We looked into Petersburgh, and then returned, we thought, tired enough for one day, and slept upon the boards of the floor of a tent, with some blankets thrown over us, four in a row—accustomed to rather better accommodation at home, but were very cheerful about it in the army.

Next morning we could hear that long continuous crescendo of the reveille, beginning in a roll and spreading like an auger-shaped tornado, which cuts down fields and presses its way across the plains, until the whole army was alive, and that plain was swarming with active men. We arose, looked into our Bibles, lifted our hearts to God for his blessing, partook of our morning meal, mounted our horses, plunged through thickets, floundered through swamps and over sand-hills, to the station of the Government railroad. We then mounted the top of a box-car, and clinching our hands underneath some timbers that were being conveyed to headquarters, endeavored to keep our place until we came to Meade's Station, and

there stopped for morning service. We entered the rooms of the Christian Commission. Before I was rested, I was invited to hear an examination of some candidates for the ordinance of baptism. Many of the soldiers were to receive, that day, the sign of the Saviour's atoning blood. I listened as each one told the story of his experience. There is something peculiar about a soldier's religious experience. I have, while in the army, thought of what the centurion said to Jesus, when he wanted his little boy healed: "I am a man under authority, and I say to one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Do this, and he doeth it." It seems as though that spirit was in the soldier. He thinks that, if Christ has promised to do any thing, he has the power and authority to secure it, and it will be done. He takes the facts of the Gospel as real, the invitations as intended, and, in a soldier-like way, marches up to the law of God and owns his guilty works reverently but frankly to God, and says, "For Christ's sake forgive me," and when he sees testimony that God does indeed forgive all who trust in Christ Jesus, he believes he is forgiven. Then he opens his heart with such frankness that you can read through his views and experiences. After the experience I have had in the ministry, from conversing with those who came to the church for admission into her sealing orders, I am satisfied that these soldier-boys were, all of them, really believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. We prepared ourselves for the morning service. I do not know whether I dare attempt to describe it. We were gathered in one of those chapels which the Christian Commission has built, numbering one hundred and forty throughout the army. The logs are piled one upon another, morticed at the corners of the building, and the interstices are filled up with cohesive Virginia clay, and then over the whole is thrown what the soldiers call a "fly," which is a piece of canvas covering the tent, and which admits the light but does not allow the rain to enter; so there is no need of inserting windows, which is a work of considerable mechanical skill, requiring some nicety and mechanical implements. And here the men gathered, eager with a desire to pray before the service. We entered, and found them heartily engaged in social prayer. It was hard to interrupt them. We began, however, the service. Gathered round the desk were those who

were to be baptized, and the clergymen were called together in front of them. The water was prepared, and passing through that bowed throng, the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost was pronounced upon them, and there, in the presence of their companions, they sealed their engagement to be the Lord's. The simple supper was supplied. A call was made, that if in the congregation there were any clergymen present, they would please step forward and take part in the service. Two privates appeared in uniform and joined in the ceremony. In silence, one after the other, were passed the broken bread and the overflowing cup, until our tears began to flow, our lips to quiver, and our hearts almost to break. Then the presiding clergyman said to some of them: "It may be the last time! it may be the last time!" Then he called upon me to speak, and I tried to tell them what if it should be the last time, and read from the Psalms of David:

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Then I spoke of that other blessed assurance: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Our hearts were getting warmer and tenderer, until a sob was heard here and there, and even an audible cry; and when we closed, it was to turn our faces to the wall and weep. When the services were closed, desiring to make some expression of interest to each other, we grasped each other's hands, and with quivering lips and flowing eyes, without a word, looked our sympathy and our fellowship.

I am afraid I am using the time that belongs to others, and I will close as rapidly as I can by finishing the work of this day.

Taking a hasty meal with the chaplain, an orderly came with two horses, which we mounted, and rode on until we reached a chapel built of undressed cedar, in the Gothic style, by a regiment of engineers, which, if composed of brown stone, would have graced any avenue in New-York. It was thronged with about fifteen hundred people. In one wing was a group of officers, from almost the highest rank in the army to the lieutenant of companies; and

there we had a sort of dedication service of that beautiful temple to the Most High God. Mounting our horses, we again rode along the breastwork until we came to the end of the fortifications, where we were stopped at a fort and told: "You are now passing out of the range of our defenses. Before you reach the next work you will have to go under the fire of the rebel guns. You must divide into companies of twos, put spurs to your horses, and go flying through the open space." And so we did, until we brought up our horses panting at a fort which has been named, I am glad to say, by our enemies, who call it Fort H—; then cutting across, we arrived at another station, and dismounted. We then entered a chapel, which was densely crowded; and, packed together in that throng, scarcely being able to move, we preached the Gospel. The drum-beat was heard, calling the men to quarters, but they lingered still; and when one after another dropped out, by the call of duty summoned, some held on to us till nearly eleven o'clock, when we bade them an affectionate farewell, mounted our horses, and made to our headquarters.

I might dwell on this an entire evening. It is only my desire to present a few pictures, to show you the manner in which this work is done, how eagerly the blessed truth is accepted, and what blessed fruits were borne. Let me say that everywhere in the army we met with just such receptions and just such throngs of hearers. The spirit of God has gone forth in scores and scores of instances—yea, in hundreds and thousands. The joy of the Lord has become the strength of our soldiers.

Now let me say one word of encouragement and cheer to you who pray for the army and the country. The day of peace is not far off. The rebel soldier is not the enemy of the Union soldier. The politician is the enemy, the leader is the adversary. Those men at the front will forgive from the heart, at once and forever, every man who will throw down his arms and return to his allegiance.

There was one scene which made a great impression on my mind. I desire to portray it to you as best I can; and this will be the last impression I wish to make upon your hearts to-night.

Just upon a bluff, at a point of rocks not far from the tree under

which they say Pocahontas saved the life of Captain John Smith, there is a hospital burying-ground. It is built round a semi-circular mound. Standing on that mound, you look off to the north, and find the graves arranged in the form of a cross. Turning to the east, you find them again arranged in the form of a cross. Turning to the west, they are arranged in the same form. Turning to the south, they are arranged in the same form still; and between each pair of crosses there is a smaller cross. Here sleep the bodies of those who have died in the hospital. On that mound a monument is yet to be erected. On the north cross and the south cross sleep the white soldiers of the Union. On the east cross and on the west cross sleep the colored soldiers of the Union. On the smaller crosses sleep the soldiers of the insurgent rebel army. Dust to dust! ashes to ashes! I want to see upon that mound a monument which shall have upon it the young daughter of America, somewhat hardened in her features and strengthened in her muscle by the ordeal through which she has passed; in one hand the flag of our country, and in the other the cross of Christ, that in the resurrection morning the white man and the colored man and the rebel may lift their eyes to the banner which God in his providence has made the sign of all our temporal welfare, and to the cross, which God hath made the sign of our eternal hopes.

Mr. Phillips then sang the hymn entitled

YOUR MISSION.

"If you can not, on the ocean,
Sail among the swiftest fleet,
Rocking on the highest billows,
Laughing at the storms you meet;
You can stand among the sailors,
Anchored yet within the bay;
You can lend a hand to help them,
As they launch their boats away.

"If you are too weak to journey
Up the mountain steep and high,
You can stand within the valley
While the multitudes go by;

You can chant in happy measure
As they slowly pass along:
Though they may forget the singer,
They will not forget the song.

"If you have not gold and silver
Ever ready to command,
If you can not toward the needy
Reach an ever open hand;
You can visit the afflicted,
O'er the erring you can weep;
You can be a true disciple,
Sitting at the Saviour's feet.

"If you can not in the conflict
Prove yourself a soldier true;
If where fire and smoke are thickest,
There's no work for you to do;
When the battle-field is silent,
You can go with careful tread;
You can bear away the wounded,
You can cover up the dead.

"Do not, then, stand idly waiting
For some greater work to do.
Fortune is a lazy goddess;
She will never come to you.
Go and toil in any vineyard;
Do not fear to do or dare;
If you want a field of labor,
You can find it anywhere."

ADDRESS BY REV. G. J. MINGINS.

Mr. Mingins said:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: It seems to me that we are living in days preëminent for organizations for the amelioration of the condition, and for the alleviation of the sufferings, both in body, mind, and spirit, of all those who have at all been affected by this gigantic war through which we have been passing during the last four years, and the end of which, I verily believe, we see, through God and his instruments—Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan.

I confess that a thrill of joy has passed through my heart while standing on this platform, and looking in the face of this great audience as they have met here to-night to show their sympathy with the United States Christian Commission. Now, although intently listening to the remarks of the gentlemen who have preceded me, I could not help taking a look at the past, and remembering the time when I first stood before the citizens of New-York to present this cause to their notice. Nay, I could not help going in fancy to that room in this city where this United States Christian Commission was first organized, and I could not help remembering a simple and yet a grand circumstance which brought those men together who organized and set in motion this institution, which has accomplished so much good during the last three years. I could not help thinking of the simple question asked and answered by those men when they met together—men who were still left at home; men who still had their loved ones with them; men who had still their family circles round them; men who were still permitted to officiate as priests at their own family altars—I say, I could not help remembering the simple question they asked each other as they were gathered in this city in November, 1861. It was this: "What can we who are left at home do for those brave men who have gone from their homes and their loved ones, and the dear associations of the family circle, to stand in the front of battle, that our homes and our liberties and our nation might be preserved unto us?" These men were not merely kind men, but they were good men; not merely benevolent men, but professing Christians, who came there not merely to ask: "What can we do to alleviate the suffering body?" but men who believed that God in his Word has said, that there is an immortal principle locked within this casket of clay, of infinitely more value than all the rest of God's created things. They came there to ask, not merely what they could do for the body; but they came there more especially to remember that every son, every husband, and every brother who had been taken from his home and his sanctuary, had a right to expect that America, as a great Christian nation, should do something for the soul as well as for the body. And I fancied, sir, as I sat there, that I saw the beginning of one of the grandest organizations, and one of the greatest evidences of

practical Christianity that the world has ever witnessed, in any age, among any people. I fancied I heard these good men give it a name—a simple and yet a great name—a name full of meaning, full of grandeur—and as they said, It shall be called the *United States Christian Commission*, I thought I heard some man of God baptize it the "Christian Commission, in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost!"

Now, to one who has been identified with the Christian Commission almost since its commencement, you will scarcely wonder that I am gratified to-night as I stand before you. You will scarcely wonder that I rejoice in its prosperity. You will scarcely wonder that I rejoice in the work it has accomplished, and especially when I recollect that since I made my first simple statement before the people of New-York upon public platforms in this city, you have heard the testimony of your ministers, of your merchants and your business men, of soldiers and officers and generals; and the testimony has been always, and I believe ever will be, while it lasts and does its work in the spirit which promoted its organization, that it is a grand a noble institution. You will not wonder, dear friends, that I am gratified when I give you some idea of the difficulties the Christian Commission has had to contend against before it gained the standing that it has to-day. When Mr. Duryea was telling you the simple story of his last visit to the army, I could not help remembering the simple story of my first visit to the army.

Now, when we went down last, General Grant put his own boat at our disposal, and we went ploughing along the river, and visited the various points of importance and interest. But when I went down to the lines of the army first, to see what the Christian Commission could do, and how it might best accomplish the desires of its originators, I was met in a very different manner. I remember its introduction to the Medical Director at Fortress Monroe, early in 1862. We had then no printed commission. When we arrived at Baltimore we had hard work to obtain a pass to Fortress Monroe; and the moment we set foot on land at the latter place, we were marched, like a file of Indians, to the Provost-Marshal's office, and there made to take the oath of allegiance to the United States Government, before they would permit us to open our mouths. I

fancied at that time, and I believe yet, that we were a very good-looking set of gentlemen that were sent. I remember, after we had taken the oath of allegiance and got out, we found we could not go anywhere but that we were bumping up against a sentry at almost every corner, and were asked, every hundred or a thousand yards, for our passes. Well, we went back to the Provost-Marshal and told him: "We can not go anywhere." And he replied: "I know it." We said: "We wanted to see the Medical Director, and we tried to get into the Fortress." "I know it." We said: "Well, but, sir, can't you give us a pass by which we may obtain an interview with the Medical Director of this post?" "Who are you?" he asked. We replied: "We are delegates of the United States Christian Commission." And he said: "What's that?" Now, I will guarantee that you can not find a division, a brigade, a regiment, a company, or a squad of men in one of the armies of America, that to-day can not tell you what the Christian Commission is—ay, and a great deal concerning it. But at last he gave us a pass, and we went into the Fortress. We felt very strange; and at last we obtained an interview with the Medical Director. Well, we stood in his office. In a brusque manner he looked up and said: "Well, gentlemen, what can I do for you?" One became spokesman. I did not; I was afraid. I had had enough of this "bluffing off." From that day to this I have had a wholesome fear of a military man when sitting in an office, with a quill behind his ear instead of a sword in his hand. I can face him with a sword, but I can not bear him with a quill. "What do you want?" said he. An Episcopalian minister stepped forward, and began to tell him that we were delegates of the Christian Commission. I do not know whether he thought he would astonish the Medical Director, but I can bear testimony that he did not astonish him. He just said what the Provost-Marshal had said before him: "What's that? what is the Christian Commission?" We told him then what it was. He replied: "Gentlemen! gentlemen! gentlemen! what do you want down here? what do you want down here?" Then this gentleman gave him a pretty good idea of what we wanted. Then he rose, put down his pen, and said: "So, gentlemen, you have come down here to see what you can do for those poor fellows who are lying sick and wounded?" "Precisely so," I

ventured to remark. He said: "Ay. Well, who are you, in the first place?" We told him that we were four clergymen and three laymen, representing some four or five denominations. When we talked of "clergymen," I noticed a smile flitting round the corners of his mouth. And, as he remembered that we had asserted that we were ready to do any thing that was required for these sick and wounded soldiers, said he: "You want to do something?" We responded in the affirmative. "Then I will give you work in ten minutes. There are three hundred sick and wounded men lying on board one of the transports at the wharf. I want three men to accompany them to New-York, Philadelphia, or Baltimore. I don't know where they are going. You will get your orders when you are on board. Will you go?" Three gentlemen immediately volunteered. He said: "Gentlemen, do you know what you are going to do? You are not going to preach, mind. I tell you what—I want you three gentlemen as nurses." He looked into their eyes, but they never flinched. Two of them were clergymen. These men proceeded on board of that transport, and there the other four stood. I happened to be among those who were left. "Now," said the Medical Director, "gentlemen, if you are ready to do just as those three gentlemen have promised, I am ready to give you work. But mark, gentlemen," he said, "mark me. I want men who will wash wounds, who will scrub floors, if necessary—in fact, to perform the duties of a hired nurse—and then, after you have done that, I have no objection at all that you put into practice any higher mission that you may have."

He gave us a pass into the hospitals. We divided. We went into the hospitals, walked from cot to cot, nursed the men, washed their faces, dressed their wounds, changed their clothing—and that was the first work the Christian Commission ever accomplished in the lines of the army, after it was organized in the city of New-York, in 1861. A few days after that, the Medical Director sent for us. He received us in a very different manner, or rather there was a kinder tone in his voice, and a little more deference was paid to the delegates of the Christian Commission. He said: "Now you will have a pass by which you can go through the lines of the army. Now, I want you to leave this place and go to Yorktown, where we have three thousand

men—many sick, suffering from typhoid fever and chronic dysentery." I and the others went there; and day after day, and week after week, we continued to serve the soldiers and the Government as nurses in that fever-tainted camp. Well, two or three weeks elapsed, when the Medical Director, having now full confidence in the Christian Commission, so far as it had exhibited its manner and method of working up to that time, sent for us. Said he: "Gentlemen, if you can continue this thing; if you can enlist the sympathies of the Christian people; if you can combine the body and the soul—give a man bread to eat here on earth, and give him bread that shall keep him from being hungry through all eternity, you will do a grand and glorious thing, and organize a Commission that will go down in history with the benedictions of the people resting upon its head."

Now, I want to say here, that the Christian Commission has never altered its plan, and has always been the same in that respect. To-day the question is asked and answered—asked by every green delegate that goes to the lines of the army, and answered by every agent and every man who understands its work: "What am I to do?" And here is the answer: "Do all you can for body, mind, and spirit among the soldiers of the army." It was a very hard thing, ladies and gentlemen, to make a Christian people at home and members of the Church at home believe—ay, and to convince many clergymen, as I know—that this Christian Commission was needed, and was doing a great work to body and soul. Many used to laugh at the idea of taking clergymen into the army. Many used to sneer at men who went down to preach to our soldiers. Mr. President, that day has passed; that day has gone by forever! No man possessing common-sense or common honesty, save he be an infidel in principle, will laugh at the idea of taking Christ into the army, and preaching those things which make for the eternal peace of the hosts of men who have gone forth to death for our deliverance. This is gratifying, not only to myself, but to all those who have taken a deep interest in the United States Christian Commission, as they have watched its progress and its prosperity.

Now you know, my dear friends who have heard me before,

that I am not apt to deal in figures. I like to deal in facts. And yet to-night I want to show you the progress of the United States Christian Commission, by offering for your consideration a few figures, and then backing them up with a few facts. And you will see, by these figures and facts, how the Christian Commission has grown upon the people; how it has magnified its work; how it has concentrated, as it were, the great work of the Christian Church; and how its progress must and will be onward, until this war is over.

From November, 1861, until May, 1862, it had spent about $700. That was all it could get. It spent $709, because it could not get any more. It was either $700 or $1100—I will not be sure which—but either $700 or $1100 passed through the treasury of the United States Christian Commission, from November, 1861, to May, 1862. In 1862, after it had obtained an entrance into the army in the manner I have just described, it sent 356 delegates to the army; in 1863, it sent 1267 delegates; in 1864, it sent 2217. The aggregate number of days of service of these delegates in 1862, was 11,593; in 1863, 41,000; and in 1864, 78,860. It distributed tracts, pamphlets, and publications, in 1862, 3696; in 1863, 12,648; and in 1864, 57,103. It sent into the army, in 1862, 102,560 copies of the Scriptures; in 1863, 465,715; and in 1864, 569,594. It sent into the army bound library books, for hospital use, in 1862, 3450; 1863, 39,713; 1864, 93,872. It sent, in 1862, 34,653 magazines and pamphlets; in 1863, 120,492; and in 1864, 346,536; religious newspapers, in 1862, 384,-781; in 1863, 2,931,409; and in 1864, 7,990,758; making a grand total of religious papers distributed in the army and navy, 11,307,-008. I do not want to tell you how many packages of tracts it distributed. I want to give you an idea of the money it has received; and thus you will see how it has progressed in the affections of the people, because all along the Christian Commission has depended entirely for its supplies on the simple and plain statement of its doings, placed before the people of America by its returned delegates. Cash received during the year 1862, $40,160.29; in 1863, $358,239.29; in 1864,$1,297,755.28—upward of thirty-two times as much as that received in 1862—$40,000 in 1862, and $1,297,755 in 1864! Value of stores donated in 1862, $142,150; in 1864,

$1,169,508, in round numbers. Now, as to the value of the Scriptures distributed, I want particularly to call your attention to those donated by the American Bible Society in 1862, which amounted to $10,256; in 1863, $45,671; in 1864, $72,114.83—making the grand donation of the American Bible Society to the United States Christian Commission, $127,442.33. And I do pray, that when the American Bible Society comes before the people of New-York in May, at its anniversary, the Almighty will open the hearts of the great and the good and the rich of this city to give them far more money this year than they have donated in Bibles and Testaments to the United States Christian Commission during its existence, or may donate during the war.

I want to give you an item of the value of the delegates' services. We present this to show you how much we have saved by giving a man next to nothing for his work. I once heard it declared on a platform, before hundreds of intelligent men and women, by a person well known, that he did not think men could be obtained who would work for nothing. Now, if you could just go down to the lines of the army, you would find men working for next to nothing. I remember once going into a tent, and I saw sitting upon the damp floor—for it was a wet day—some four or five soldiers. They were reading books. I looked over the shoulder of one, and I observed he was reading a Greek Testament. I said: "What are you reading there?" He held up the book, and replied: "Can't you see?" I said: "I did not ask you that question. What are you reading?" He answered: "A Greek Testament." "Can *you* read Greek?" said I. "Yes; I ought to." "Why?" I asked. "Because," he replied, "more than one professor has been thumping at my head for years, to knock Greek into it." I asked him where he came from, and he told me. Next I asked him what position he held in the army, and he held up his arms, and said: "Can't you tell?" I saw he had on a private's uniform. I said: "Only a private?" He was the son of a gentleman. He was an educated man, and had almost graduated at college in his last year. He had left college, gone into the army, and joined the ranks. He had fought until the shirt he wore was any thing but white, and his coat was torn. When I said "Only a private," the man's eyes

flashed and his cheeks flushed, as he replied: "Yes, sir, only a private; but I look beyond that. I hope in God that I am a patriot, and that is more than a private!" (Applause.) Now, friends, you can find hundreds of such men. I once passed a house in Connecticut, surrounded by a garden and beautiful pleasure-grounds. I made inquiry as to whom it belonged, and the answer given me was: "To Private So-and-so." I asked how much he was worth, and was answered a million and a half, and that he was marching and fighting in the army as a private. It is a libel—to say nothing more harsh—upon such men as these, when it is affirmed they work for pay. If they entered the army for pay, they must be mad. They should be placed in a lunatic asylum, and have all their money taken from them, because they do not know how to make a proper use of it. Catch a man leaving his home, and all the luxuries that a millionaire can command, to enter the army as a private, and work for pay! Now, then, we have made something by men who were willing to work for nothing. The value of a delegate's services—that is, what we would have had to pay a man at the lowest computation, say one dollar and fifty cents a day, had he taken the money—amounts to two hundred and sixty-three thousand seven hundred dollars. That we have saved. That has gone to the soldier, and not to the delegates; that has gone to the army, and has not staid at home; that has clothed, fed, nourished, and comforted the soldier; that has been sent down to the army as a living evidence of the grandest patriotism—a patriotism which is prompted by hearts that love both God and man. Then, there is another thing which clearly demonstrates the progress and the strength of the Christian Commission. In 1862, we had telegraphic facilities amounting to thirty-six hundred dollars. In 1864, the stock is up with the Christian Commission. They have struck oil, (laughter,) and the telegraph companies permitted them to send messages to the amount of twenty-six thousand four hundred and fifty dollars.

Now, I have given these figures, dear friends, because we are told they never lie. I have given you them because I know you can not reach the pocket of a rich business man unless you hit his head, that is, if he be a sensible man. I would not give a fig for that man, be he lay or clerical, who is composed of such combusti-

ble materials that he goes off like a match—first shows a little light, and then is all smoke; and when you look for him, instead of seeing the fair proportions of a great man, you behold nothing but the ashes of the great. I have mentioned these figures, because they reach the thinking, meditative business man.

Now for a few facts, and I will close. It is so long since I have spoken before a New-York audience that you must pardon me, for I feel rather frightened to-night. I have not often been frightened, but I am to-night; and probably I shall mention facts that I have presented before. But I do not care for that, for they are still of the same power, as showing, conclusively, the progress of the Christian Commission. These are the facts: The Government to-day fully indorses the Christian Commission; and more than that: the Government fully sympathizes with it in all its work. Once the day was, when we approached the officer high in position, and stood in his presence, he said: "Well, gentlemen, we don't know any thing about this matter. We must be exceedingly careful; for you must be aware that, if this thing slips in, and then another, and another, we shall have all America after our soldiers, and we can't allow that." I say, that they have not only indorsed it, but we possess their sympathy. Before I went to California, I had the honor of speaking in the Capitol at Washington. Near to me sat an old man—not very handsome, as the world counts beauty; and not very straight as he sat, but who is always straight when he puts his foot down, and rests upon principle. He sat there, a rugged-looking man, one who did not affect kid gloves very much, and yet there was something grand and noble in him, as you watched the lines of his quivering countenance. I say "quivering countenance," because I saw his lip more than once shake. I saw his eyes grow bright more than once as the simple story of the Christian Commission's work was detailed in his hearing; and, at last, I witnessed more than one sign that the great man stooped to weep, and thereby proved himself both good and great. And, after that meeting was over, how my heart thrilled and my lip shook, when that man took me by the hand, and said: "It is a great work; God bless it!" That man Abraham Lincoln. (Applause.) I say, therefore, that we have more than the mere indorsement of the

Government—we have its sympathy. Now, when the Christian Commission goes into the Provost-Marshal's office, they are not afraid of the quill any more than they are of the sword. Why? Because it is known; because it is thoroughly understood, and because it is appreciated by the General and the officers of the army. I told you just now that General Grant gave that delegation his own steamboat. Wherever we landed there were horses for the delegation to get on, and, as my friend Duryea says: "We could go like the wind." I am not a good horseman, and I should have much preferred an ambulance; nevertheless, I kept up with them, although I thought that my back was broken as I went over those corduroy roads along that long line of intrenchments. But in 1862 they would not have given us a donkey, if they had had one. (Laughter.) Why? Because they did not know the Christian Commission, and these men are careful to let nothing into the army that would not do it good, if they can help it. I need not waste time in presenting to you the testimony of such officers as Howard, Meade, Patrick, and scores of others, who have written their names upon the scroll of fame. Now, when we go in, the officers receive us. I preached at a cavalry station on the Sabbath which Mr. Duryea has described, and I shall never forget it. When I first preached, I confess I used to stand upon a cracker-box, and preach to privates. The first thing I saw when I entered that tent was the star of a General, who was surrounded by his staff, and there were very many officers in the midst of that company. Now, I do not mean to say, and I do not wish you so to understand me, that officers are just becoming religious. I do not mean that at all. But I mean now that they thoroughly understand this organization, and that they have confidence in it. They have proved their confidence by their presence, and aid the work with the soldier. At night I preached, and the church was again thronged with soldiers and officers; and I think every man who composed the choir, and stood up to sing the praises of redeeming love, wore a shoulder-strap. I thank God, as one of those men who have borne the burden in the heat of the day for the Christian Commission, that they stood there, and thus indorsed its great and glorious work. The soldiers love and esteem it. When I used to tell you here,

two years ago, how accessible the soldiers were, I know that some men went away, and said: "Well, that is going rather far now." Men have said to me: "Do you mean to say just that?" And I said, "Yes." "Do you mean to say that the soldiers are so accessible that you can get a congregation to preach to almost at any time?" And I said, "Yes." And my heart is gladdened when a man like this, (Mr. Duryea,) whom you all know, one of your own clergymen, tells you that while he was eating his dinner the Brigadier-General called out his brigade to listen to the blessed Word. And when I stood there to preach to a regiment of our colored brethren, almost within gun-shot of the enemy, I realized it was as true to-day as it ever was, that the soldiers loved and respected the Christian Commission. I was talking to one of them as I stood in Fort Harrison. He was a colored soldier. I said, (pointing to them,) "I suppose these are the works of the enemy;" and he said, "Yes." "How do you get along down here?" "Very well, indeed," replied he. "Do you know the Christian Commission?" I inquired. "Oh! yes," said he, "know it—of course I do. Why, there is their chapel, and I go to school to the Christian Commission." I then asked him: "What do you think of it?" "Well, it is a bully thing," said he. (Laughter.) I said to that same soldier: "I suppose now that these forts, and the line of intrenchments over there, would require a pretty tough fight to take them?" He looked at me seriously for a moment, and replied: "Just you look here; at any time that the old man (that is, General Grant) wants those 'ar forts, they can be tuck." I said: "Who will take them?" He answered: "Us boys!" I turned to a white soldier, who stood by smiling, and asked: "Is that so?" He said: "I tell you, they are bully on a charge!" And I want to indorse here what Mr. Duryea said. It is delightful to hear the white soldier's testimony of his colored brother, and delightful to see the commingling of the great brotherhood of patriots that has been brought about by this great war. I tell you there is nothing like showing a man the stuff of which his fellow is made, to give him that respect that God demands from him toward his brother. The Christian Commission is all right in the Army and in the Navy. The soldiers and sailors believe in it. Here is another fact: the wives and mothers believe

in it. We have lately commenced organizing a Ladies' Christian Commission. I am one of those who believe (and I may be heterodox in this respect) that though it was born in a room in this city, where none were present but men, it was taken a babe in long clothes, and nursed by women until it reached its present great strength and stature. I believe that whatever men had to do with it there, it has been borne up upon the prayers of the women of America; and I do know for a fact, that if we could separate the women's gifts from those of the men, the latter would look small in comparison, as they stood in separate columns. A widow once approached me, after I had made a speech, and, taking me by the hand, said: "Sir, I do thank God for the Christian Commission. I had three sons; two went to the war. I know not where they have laid one of them. I know not where his grave is. All I know is, that a comrade came to me and told me that he had seen him fall and die, and that the rebel hordes trampled over his bleeding body. I know where the other is. He fell also, bravely defending the flag of his country; but they sent him home, and I was permitted to kiss his cold cheek, permitted to follow him to the grave, and lay him in quiet in the City of the Dead, where his father rests; and I know I shall see him when I reach the mansions in the sky. But oh! I wonder from what quarter the other will come. I fancy, as I ascend, I will be looking all round watching where George will come from. But this I will say, that the Christian Commission watched over them both, cared for them both, succored them both, and I bless it! Another is growing up; he is but fifteen. I have hard work to keep him out of the army, but, when strong enough, I do not want to keep him out. This is God's war, and the Christian Commission is his instrumentality." In a word, dear friends, the Christian Commission has the sympathy and the support of the people, from Maine to Oregon. This is the simple fact; for I can say, without egotism, that I have presented the cause of that Commission from Portland, Maine, to the borders of Idaho, through Washington, Nevada, Oregon, and California. I once talked Christian Commission to a native of Central America, and if I could have brought oranges away, I might have had a ship-load of them for nothing. Wherever I have gone, it has been

hard work, for I have talked two or three times every Sunday, and three or four times every week during the last ten months, besides being jolted over very bad roads. I never saw such roads in the army as I crossed in going over the mountains of Oregon, to present the cause of the Christian Commission. I have travelled three hundred miles in a stage over very bad roads; but wherever I went, whether in the miner's cabin or in the great and grand cities of the Pacific Coast, which contain a great, a noble, and a Christian people—wherever I went, I was welcome. I shall never forget the genuine hospitality that I experienced on the Pacific Coast. At first they had a wrong notion about it. I am not going to say how they received it. At first there was opposition to it, because they had an idea that we only gave tracts on dancing to soldiers without legs. When we corrected that impression, and got at the truth, the largest collection, Mr. President, that was ever taken at one time for the United States Christian Commission at its first presentation, was in San Francisco. The first time a collection was taken up we got twenty thousand dollars that night for the Christian Commission: that is, we got nearly nine thousand dollars in gold, and I very soon tumbled that over into greenbacks at about two dollars and thirty cents. They have given freely on the Pacific Coast, and have shown their interest in the Commission by the manner of their gifts.

I want to close with a little incident, showing you how this work gets into a man's heart, gets hold of him, and brings him up to the measure of a true man. There are two kinds of men upon earth that I can not get along with. One is a *stingy* man, and the other is a *growler*. A growler I can not countenance at all, because he is neither useful nor ornamental; and I know that God will have nothing to do with a stingy man, save that he is holding a rod over him against that day when he will require an account of his stewardship.

I went once to address an audience in a little town or hamlet in Oregon. I shall never forget when I arrived there, and looked over that hamlet. I asked myself, and the minister who was in the wagon with me, the question: "Am I to talk here to-night?" "Of course you are,' he responded. I said: "Pray, whom am I to talk

to—whom am I to address?" He said: "What do you mean by asking that question?" I replied: "Do you call this a town? He replied: "Don't be fastidious; we are only a few years old; we are just commencing. Yes, that is a town; we call it so. Hold on until you see the audience, before you begin to grumble." I went to take supper in the log-house of the frontier-man; and then I entered the little building which was used for a school-room, lecture-room, and chapel, and I found it well filled. Probably there were a hundred there. Many of them had come miles over the country—I will not say how deeply clothed in mud. I talked to them; told them the simple story of the Commission. It was all new, save to those who had read of our doings in the religious papers. After I had finished, I said: "Now, there will be an opportunity afforded you to give what you can for the Christian Commission." The hat was sent round. They did not go to the expense of plates, covered with puce-colored velvet, but they took a hat. It was passed round, and it came back with upwards of two hundred dollars in hard cash, gold and silver. When that was taken up, I observed that an old man got fidgety. After a time, he got up and said: "Well, now, men, I have just heard what this man has said about the Christian Commission. It appears to me that it takes a wonderful hold on a man's heart, and I have been thinking what we have been doing for our country. Here we are, away off on the Pacific slope, divided by the deserts on the one hand, and the ocean on the other, from this terrible war. Here we have our homes, humble enough though they be. Here we have our sons and brothers, and loved ones. Here we have no desolation, no army sweeping over our fields, no foes burning our houses. And how is it, men, that we are thus left to ourselves, enjoying peace? Why, because somebody else's houses are being burnt down, somebody else's cornfields are being trampled down, and somebody else's sons and brothers are standing in front of the foe. This has made me feel bad. You know I am poor, and that I can not give much, but I will give something to this Christian Commission." Turning to me, he said: "*I will give Bolger!*" I did not understand him. I thought, at first, he meant a bull-dog; and if there be any thing in the world that I abhor, it is a bull-dog; and

I was going to say I did not want him. He said, "You know Bolger?" and I saw the heads of the frontier-men bow. "I have used him many a day over these hills. I have got to give him. Boys! who will give any thing for Bolger, *that old horse I like so?*" And one said: "I will give a hundred dollars in gold." He was knocked down for a hundred dollars in gold; which amount found its way to the Christian Commission. I went home that night, and slept in the frontier-man's log-house. I always fancy, when I get into the fine houses here, and see the velvet hangings, Brussels carpets, the plate, and other luxuries of life, how different was that frontier-man's house. I have slept with a whole family in one room, they paying me the compliment of hanging a curtain along the posts of my bed, and so I retired, comparatively in retirement. I got up the next morning, took breakfast, and was ready to start. As I was going out, the old man touched me on the sleeve, and said: "I want you to come into the kitchen for a moment." I followed him in, and he gave me a chair. His wife was also present. I observed that he was affected about something. At last he said: "I have been troubled all night. I have been thinking of home; of those poor bleeding boys; of those desolate hearthstones; of those saddened hearts. I have been thinking of those mourning widows; of those pale-faced orphans; and I tell you, sir, *I have been in trouble*, and am yet. Last night I gave what I could for the Christian Commission, *but I find that I must give more.*" And he took out a little rosewood case, sprung the lid, and there I saw, nestling upon its velvet cushion, a beautiful gold watch. Then the old man said: "Two years ago, I had saved up money enough, and I bought it. I wanted a good watch, and I thought I ought to have it. I had been wanting it for many and many a year; but I have never worn it yet, and I will never wear it while there is a man in my country suffering, and I can aid him. *Take it, sir!*" I said: "No; you ought not to do so. You have given what you could; and God approves the cheerful gift." He said: "You *must* take it, sir. Wife and I talked about it all night; and this morning, when we got up, we put the watch upon our bed, and knelt down, and consecrated it to God and our country. It *must* go; and if you will not take it, I will send it to the first Christian Commission that I can hear

of." I said: "What shall I do with it?" He said: "Give it to the Christian Commission." On another occasion I was presented by a widow with a beautiful velvet cloak, for which, she told me, in her better days she had given five hundred dollars. She said: "I have worn it once, but can not wear it again. It is the widow's mite; take it, and sell it." I took both of them, and gave them to the Committee in Portland, and, at the Ladies' Festival held there, the watch and the cloak were sold, and the money came into the Treasury of the Christian Commission. I would say, in concluding this branch of my subject, that on the Pacific shore the people know all about the Christian Commission. They have got the grand idea into their minds, and their offerings in seven months to the Christian Commission amounted to *one hundred and forty thousand dollars.*

Now, friends, in conclusion, let me say to you, that this Commission is prospering, and must prosper, because GOD indorses it and its work, and *the people* are determined that it shall not want means! And yet, Mr. President, to-night we stand before the citizens of New-York with an almost empty treasury. The Committee of the Christian Commission of New-York stand here, and appeal to you for help. Are you aware that the Committee of New-York have cared for the army and the navy of our country, as it has been scattered from Connecticut to Texas?—as it has been scattered along that vast line of sea-coast—that they have cared for it nobly? That the Committee have worked and labored, and given their time, their means, and their sympathies abundantly? There is no man on this Committee—and I say it to their praise—who ever asked a dollar from any man, *until he had put his hand deeply into his own pocket.* Now, they come to you to-night, and ask me to put my hand into *your pockets.* My modesty will not allow of such a thing; but can't I *touch your hearts?* Can't I make you show by your acts, just how much you are willing to indorse and uphold this Christian Commission? Are you aware that in our national horizon the shafts of war are beginning to leap up, and the last thundering of American patriots against the bulwark of treason is about to be launched forth? Are you aware that Grant, like an iron giant, stands watching the crouching foe, disaffected

and almost in despair? Are you aware that Sherman, with the stalk of the lion, is coming up, and is about to make his last spring, and, settling upon the throat of infernal treason, forever squeeze out its life-blood, no longer to be known upon the soil of Washington? (Applause.) Are you aware that Sheridan is closing in upon the insolent foe that dares to trample upon the rights guaranteed unto all men by God and by our Constitution? Are you aware that many nerves are being strung with high expectations that, putting on the front of war, they are about to go forth with steady tread and determined victory? Are you aware that the fortifications, as the colored man said—no, I will not say "colored man," but as the American citizen of African descent said —"*are to be took!*" (Applause.) If so, in God's name, in the name of humanity, I ask you to send this angel of mercy—this Christian Commission—laden with those things that are absolutely necessary for the comfort of the brave men who are going to dare and do every thing for us. I pray God that this may be the last time you will be asked to give. I pray God that the next time I stand before such an audience as this, I may sing with thousands the praises of victory. I want to be rid of this war. I am tired of the smell of blood. I am tired of the desolation that war brings. I am tired of the hearts wrung with anguish. I am tired of the graves that stare one in the face at every yard we march upon the James, or along in front of Richmond. I am tired of hearing wives mourn for their husbands. I am tired of hearing little ones lisp: "When will papa come home?" I am tired of seeing widowhood in weeds. I am tired of beholding old men going down to the grave in sorrow. I am tired of this din, and clash, and circumstance of war. I am tired of this audience, tired of my preaching, tired of my begging for these poor men. I am tired of my beseeching you to give to them those things that are necessary: and I want to be at rest. I want to get back to my own work, to stand in some place and talk of Jesus in times of peace. I want to lift up the sin-atoning Lamb in cities where there is no talk of war; and in villages where the sweet tones of the Sabbath bell are unmingled with the cries of the dying. I want to get rid of it. *Do you?* Then give to-night. Give to-night, and let us go forth furnished with every thing that

is necessary. Let New-York do as she ought to do, Mr. Chairman. I know what she has given. I know what she has sacrificed. But I want you to put the last shot in the locker of the Christian Commission, and to let it flash along the cords of the Associated Press that one hundred thousand dollars have been given as the thank-offering of New-York to the soldiers to finish up this war; so that the time may come when you and I, welcoming these men back again, as we grasp their hands, may hear them say: "God bless you! God bless you! You aided us in our sore distress. God bless you!" And oh! may we soon hear benedictions from returned volunteers falling upon this great city for its last great gift! Oh! give to-night, and may God bless you! (Applause.)

William A. Booth, Esq., said:

I desire to present these resolutions without remark, except to to say that I am confident they will meet a response in every heart throughout the house. Mr. Booth then read

THE RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That in the mighty conflict in which this nation is involved, we acknowledge with deep gratitude the evidence of the Divine approval of our cause, and the prospect of its speedy and triumphant success.

Resolved, That we deem it the duty as it is the privilege of all our citizens, to render every possible aid and comfort to the bodies and souls of the brave men who, on land and on sea, have periled their lives to save and protect our common country.

Resolved, That in the objects and labors of the Christian Commission, we recognize a lofty patriotism and an impressive illustration of the spirit and power of the Gospel of Christ.

Resolved, That it be urged upon our community to aid, by their earnest prayers and generous contributions, this Commission in accomplishing its noble and Christ-like purposes.

The President: I am requested to say to the audience that the duly appointed collectors will be known by a badge of blue ribbon. I would also say that there has been neither time nor opportunity to distribute cards fully throughout the house, but the collectors here have been furnished with cards, so that if any gentleman chooses to subscribe, and put his name to a card, he can have it from any of the collectors. During the collection a hymn

will be sung by Mr. Phillips; and after the collection the Battle-Hymn will be sung.

Mr. Phillips then sung the hymn entitled:

"There's a sound among the forest trees."

The President: I am requested to give notice that if, hereafter, any person feels disposed to subscribe, he can do so by sending his contribution to Mr. James M. Brown, 56 Wall street.

In the absence of Mr. McCabe, the "Battle-Hymn" was sung by Mr. Phillips, after which the President pronounced the benediction.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee, having for a long period, in addition to all his other labors, performed the duties of Secretary, and finding his health giving way, requested to be relieved of this part of the work, which request was readily granted.

The Rev. H. Dyer, D.D., was appointed Corresponding Secretary, and immediately entered upon the duties of the office. Dr. Dyer continued to hold this position till the work of the Commission was brought to a close.

The Treasurer of the Commission, James M. Brown, Esq., being about to visit Europe, to be absent for a year or more, resigned his office. The Secretary was requested to express, in behalf of the Committee, to Mr. Brown, their high appreciation of his services, and their deep regret that circumstances rendered it necessary for him to retire from the office of Treasurer.

In compliance with this request, the following letter was addressed to Mr. Brown:

"James M. Brown, Esq.:

"My Dear Sir: At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the New-York Branch of the Christian Commission, held this morning, the following action was taken, which I was requested to communicate to you.

"The resignation of James M. Brown, Esq., as Treasurer of this Branch of the Christian Commission, having been referred to the Executive Committee with power, it was, for the reasons set forth in his letter, accepted. The Committee then proceeded to the appointment of a successor, whereupon Morris K. Jessup, Esq., was unanimously elected.

"In accepting your resignation, the Committee desire that I should express to you their deep sense of obligation for your long-continued and most efficient services. They sincerely regret that circumstances require you to retire from the post you have so satisfactorily filled before the work of the Commission is fully closed. But they feel truly grateful that you have been enabled to continue your valuable aid for so long a period. It is but just to say, that the use of your name and that of your honored House, has been of material service to the interests of the Commission.

"In your absence from the country, you will bear with you the high respect and cordial sympathy of those with whom you have been so long and so pleasantly associated. May every blessing attend you and yours!

"I am sincerely and truly yours, H. Dyer, *Secretary.*

"New-York, May 24, 1865."

Mr. Jessup kindly consented to accept the office of Treasurer, and discharged its duties most satisfactorily till the close of the Commission.

After the surrender of the armies of General Lee and General Johnston, the war was rapidly brought to a close. Within a few weeks the Government commenced removing the troops from various parts of the South, so that the work of the Commission was soon confined to comparatively few localities. In June, 1865, the Committee issued directions to the agents of the different departments, to close their labors at as early a day as circumstances would justify. By the first of October following, every agency was closed, every delegate withdrawn, and the affairs of the Commission were fully and satisfactorily settled.

Thus the work of the Commission being virtually closed, the General Board was called together to receive the report of the Executive Committee. This meeting took place on the twenty-seventh of November, 1865. The attendance was quite large, and the occasion was one of peculiar interest. After proper devotional services, and the reading of the minutes, the Chairman of the Executive Committee made a brief statement, showing that from all the departments the delegates had returned, and that the agents in charge had closed the work of the Commission, and made their final reports.

The Treasurer made his report, from which it appeared that, after discharging every pecuniary obligation, there was still quite a balance remaining on hand.

After considering at some length what disposition should be made of this balance, it was finally unanimously referred to the Executive Committee, with power to use at their discretion these funds for the temporal relief and the spiritual benefit of the soldiers and sailors, together with their families, who have been, or may now be, in the service of the United States.

It was thought that this would be the most legitimate and satisfactory mode of carrying out the wishes and purposes of those who had contributed to the Treasury of the Commission.

There being no other business, the Chairman of the General Committee presented the following paper, which, upon being read, was unanimously adopted, and ordered to be entered upon the minutes of the Committee. A copy was ordered to be engrossed, and signed by the members of the Committee, and to be presented to Dr. Nathan Bishop, the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

"In closing their labors, this General Committee desire to express their sincere and affectionate respect for the personal character and their high appreciation of the long-continued and most

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effective services of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the New-York Branch of the Christian Commission, Nathan Bishop, LL.D.

"With no other reward than a consciousness of endeavoring to honor his Divine Master, by serving his country and his fellow-men, Dr. Bishop has for more than two years given his time and undivided energies in a personal supervision and direction of the varied operations of the Committee. To these disinterested and engrossing labors, continued day by day, through summer and winter, the Commission is deeply indebted for its wise, practical, and economical management, and its satisfactory and complete success.

"The members of this Committee feel that it is but right and just to acknowledge in this formal and distinct manner their obligations to one whose devotion and self-sacrificing efforts have contributed so much to accomplish the objects for which the Commission was organized.

"To this end the Committee have taken this special action, and place it upon their minutes, as a testimony to Dr. Bishop of the estimation in which his services are held.

As the concluding act of the Committee, the following was unanimously adopted:

"Before this Committee finally adjourn, they desire to return their sincere thanks to all who, by their contributions of money, stores, personal efforts, and their prayers, have enabled the Commission to accomplish its work of mercy in the army and the navy of the United States.

"They desire, also, as their closing act, to express and place on record their deep sense of gratitude to Almighty God for the manifold tokens of his love and favor toward the Commission, in the services in which it has been engaged. And especially would they reverently acknowledge his great goodness in staying the desolations of war, in restoring peace to our land, and in preserving and strengthening our national Government."

"From Him alone these blessings have come, and to his great

name, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, would we ascribe all the honor and glory of this great salvation."

In thus bringing the record of the affairs of the Commission to a conclusion, the object of this Memorial Volume is accomplished.

It may interest those who have been particularly engaged in the work of the Commission, and serve to keep alive the recollection of the strange yet impressive scenes through which we have been passing.

To some it will awaken mournful memories, reminding them of the early dead, of homes broken up, of hearts made desolate. To others it will bring joy and gladness, as it calls to mind the mercies of God, and the blessings of a Saviour's grace: while in all it will revive the remembrance of the noblest deeds of piety and patriotism which this or any other people have ever displayed.

In future years, the organization and operations of the Christian Commission will be regarded as one of the wonderful things connected with this most wonderful war. It will stand out as a striking yet beautiful illustration of the spirit and power of our holy religion, and of the brotherhood of all who believe in and love our Lord Jesus Christ. It has been in the highest sense a Christian Commission, caring for the body and the soul, and dispensing blessings temporal and spiritual to all within its reach. In laboring for those for whom Christ died, it labored for Him, and glorified his great and holy Name.

Total Receipts.

The Treasurer of the New-York Branch of the Christian Commission reports the total cash receipts at $307,649.38; total cash expenditures at $282,714.02. The value of the stores received was $33,904.16; making the aggregate of receipts, $341,653.54.

APPENDIX.

List of Delegates.

The following persons received commissions from the New-York Branch, and served the Commission for periods of time varying from a few weeks to more than two years:

Abbott, Rev. J. S. C.
Abbott, Mr. Waldo.
Adamson, Rev. W. S.
Adams, D.D., Rev. William.
Anderson, D.D., Rev. T. D.
Angell, Mr. H. B.
Aycrigg, Col. Benjamin.
Allen, Rev. A. M.

Booth, D.D., Rev. R. R.
Bacon, Rev. George B.
Breckinridge, Rev. John S.
Browne, Rev. Addison.
Buffum, Rev. J. N.
Best, Rev. Jacob.
Bainbridge, Rev. W. F.
Bennett, Mr. J. P.
Bayle, Mr. John.
Barrall, E. Rev. A.
Barringer, Mr. R. R.
Boole, Rev. W. H.
Boone, Mr. William I.
Brace, Rev. C. L.
Burdick, Rev. H. D.
Burlingham, D.D., Rev. A. H.
Bartow, Rev. H. B.
Barrett, Rev. C. H.
Best, Rev. Byron.
Bogardus, S. T. M.
Bradshaw, Rev. John.
Burkle, Mr. W.
Boughton, Rev. Peter.
Budington, D.D., Rev. W. I.
Bryant, Rev. George W.
Binsell, Rev. C. H.
Crane, Rev. E. N.
Corey, Rev. C. H.

Connelly, Rev. H.
Cook, Rev. R. S.
Cowan, Mr. John.
Coplin, Rev. Alanson.
Cookman, D.D., Rev. A
Corey, Rev. Daniel.
Crane, Rev. I.
Charpiot, Rev. G. E.
Cochran, Rev. A. B.
Craighead, Rev. J. G.
Campbell, Mr. A. M.

Duryea, Rev. J. T.
Diossy, Rev. R. K.
Doolittle, Mr. E. D.
De Forrest, Rev. J. A.
Dunham, Rev. H. C.
De Witt, Rev. H. G.
Downey, Rev. George D.
Drown, Mr. George P.
Denison, Rev. A. E.
Dunn, Rev. Jas. B.
Dubois, Rev. J. J.
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